Wednesday March 6 1991

World News Heathrow airport to all airlines

The British government threw open London's Heathrow airport to all airlines in the biggest overhaul of British civil aviation since the privatisation of British Airways.

The decision is expected to intensify competition at the world's largest international passenger airport and spark off intense controversy within government ranks and the aviation industry. Page 18

Serbs flee Croatia Thousands of Serbs were reported to be fleeing Croatia following rumours that they faced slaughter by Croats, Croatian authorities estimated the refugees at 3,000, while the Serbian-based state Tanjug news agency said 20,000 had fled to Serbia.

Cholera spreads Health officials said that more than 20 cases of cholera had en confirmed in Ecuador in the first sign that the worst outbreak of the disease in

is spreading beyond Peru. Journalist jailed Journalist Patrick Laurence of The Star newspaper in South Africa was sentenced to 10 days in jail for refusing to reveal the sources of his report on the disappearance of a key witness in Winnie Mandela's kidnapping and

ssault trial. Albanian exodus The flow of Albanians across the Straits of Otranto to Italy. in search of political asylum, continued as the Italian authorities began to set up ref-ugee camps. More emigrés are expected in spite of attempts by Albanian port officials to prevent boats from docking. Page 4

Torture claimed Former Pakistan prime minis-ter Benazir Bhutto demanded an inquiry into allegations that imprisoned activists of her party had been tertured.

Rwanda kilis rebels Rwanda said it had repulsed a rebel attack in the country mountainous north-west, killing at least 60 insurgents .

Unannounced visit German government sources ... said that Soviet defence minister Dmitry Yazov had visited his troops in eastern Germany

informing Bonn. Kenya accuses US Kenya accused the US of inter-fering in its internal affairs by calling for the release of sident lawyer Gitobu Imany-

ara from detention. Colombia rejects bid Colombia said it had rejected a rebel proposal to demilitarise a region of the country as a first step to beginning peace talks on ending over 25 years

of guerrilla warfare. Frelimo challenged A new Mozambican opposition group announced plans to challenge the ruling Frelimo par-ty's 15-year monopoly of power and hold a founding congress

Afghan clashes kill 5 At least five peopla were reportedly killed in clashes between followers of rival

guerrilla groups in Afghan-istan's Takhar province.

Exiles return Almost 3,000 political exiles have been given permission to return to South Africa with immunity from prosecution. Repatriation is due to start tomorrow when 108 exiles return from Zambia.

Last missile departs The last British-based nuclear of the country to be destroyed in the US under an east-west arms reduction treaty.

its key executives to stay loyal

temptation the west should resist

ket, Midland tries again

Plugging the brain drain: Hong Kong tempts

Technology: Search for an alternative fuel in

Editorial Comments Telecoms in a freer mar-

Foreign Affairs: iraqis deserva batter — a

Less Midland Bank; UK telecommunications

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Guif crisis ..

the slow lane ...

airlines; Fisons --

Business Summary | Shareholders' dividend halved as recession multiplies bad debts **Britain opens Volvo reports** first overall loss for sixty years

Volvo last year suffered a SKr327m (\$58.6m) loss after financial items, compared with a SKr6.654bn profit in 1989. It was the first time in nearly 60 years that the Swedish vehicle group reported an over-all operating loss. Page 19; Renault results, Page 20

the Dow Jones Industrial Average at midsession was quoted almost 40 points higher at 2,952. Stock markets in Amstershowed rises of almost 2 per cent on the day. In London, the FT-SE 100 share index closed 37.2 higher on the day at 2,420.1, within 50 points of its all-time closing high reached on January 3 last year. US and Europe, Back Page, Second Section; LSE, Page 29

PAPELERA Espanola, Spain's largest supplier of newsprint, suspended payments to its creditors after failing to reach agreement with principle bank-ers on rescheduling its debts, worth a total Pta23.5bn (\$246m). Page 19

CENTRUM, East Germany'a largest department store chain, has been sold after a year of tough negotiations, to the three big west German houses Karstadt, Kanihof and Hertie.

PEARSON, publishing, bank-ing and industrial group, sold its 22.2 per cent stake in Elsev-ier, the Dutch publisher for £313m (\$601m), realising a significant profit on its investment. Page 19; Elsevier profits,

ROYAL BANK of Canada's first-quarter earnings were down by 15 per cent after a sharp rise in loan losses and non-performing loans more than offset higher interest income from the US. Page 21

who controls Omni Holding, will retain primary responsibility of the debt-laden group.

and horticultural equipment group, said 1990 pre-tax profits were boosted by 36 per cent to £230,2m (\$442m) Page 20; Lex, Page 18

NINE Network Australia quoted television channel which is 52 per cent owned by Mr Kerry Packer's Consoli-dated Press Holdings reported

POLYGRAM, record company which is 80 per cent owned by Philips of the Netherlands, announced 1990 net income up 7.2 per cent to F1 357m (\$206m). Page 20

HONG KONG Aircraft Enginong Kong Aircraft Engineering Company, aircraft maintenance specialist controlled by the Swire Pacific group and its Cathay Pacific Airways subsidiary, reported a 4.9 per cent increase in aftertax profits to HK\$289.4m (\$37.1m) for the year ended (\$37.1m) for the year ended

JAPANESE business confi-dence has declined because of the Gulf crisis and high interest rates, according to a quarterly economic survey published by the Bank of Japan. Page 3

US FARM exports, driven in the past by low prices and export subsidies, are expected to drop by \$3.1bn this year despite the additional boost of the lower value of the dollar.

ISRAEL'S parliamentary finance committee has approved \$100m in loan guarantees to the ailing Koor conglomerate, owned by Israel's trade union federation.

MARKETS: On Wall Street,

FORD has signed a contract with Yamaha of Japan for the design and development of a small engine to be used in its European car range from the mid-1990s. Page 5

WERNER REY, Swiss financier

FISONS, UK pharmaceutical

net profits of A\$13.82m (\$10.73m) for the six months to December. Page 21

December 31. Page 21

Midland Bank chief quits

By David Lasceties, Banking Editor, in London SIR Kit McMahon, executive England's governor, was chairman of Britain's troubled needed to secure the services Midland Bank, yestorday announced his departure as

part of a series of changes at the top carried out with the help of the Bank of England. Sir Kit is to be replaced in June by Sir Peter Walters, the former chairman of British Petroicum. A new position of group chief executive will be filled by Mr Brian Pearse, currently finance director of Bar-

The changes were accompanied by another poor set of results from Midland - Britain's third biggest bank - which also halved its dividend a despath at the net dividend, a dramatic step not seen at a big UK bank since the 1930s, and one which underlines Midland's severe

the moves were initiated by the bank itself where Sir Kit and his board decided that a top level overhaul was needed to get the bank back to health. With the Bank of England's help, Sir Kit identified Sir Peter and Mr Pearse. The intervention of Mr Bohin Leigh. vention of Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Bank of

By Quentin Peel in Moscow

MR JOHN MAJOR, the British

prima minister, was last night flying from Moscow to the

Gulf, with assurances from President Mikhail Gorbachev

of continued Soviet support for

joint action by the five perma-nent members of the UN Secu-

rity Council to promote a last-ing peace in the Middle East. Mr Major is expected to

arrive in Kuwait today on the

first visit by a western leader since the ront of Iraq by the allied forces last week.

His departure for the former

combat zone followed four

hours of talks with Mr Gorba-chev in which both sides underlined their commitment

to joint peace moves, based on plans worked out by the Mid-

At the same time, Mr Major pledged continuing support for

Mr Gorbachev's reform plans

in the Soviet Union, while still

expressing dismay at the use of

military force in the Baltic

republics and his fears over the economic problems ahead.

He said the Soviet leader

insisted he was still set on the

of Mr Pearse, given the taboo against poaching of top execu-

tives among clearing banks. Confirming the Bank of England's involvement, a spokesman said yesterday. "We have been kept closely informed. We are fully satisfied by the steps taken by Midland, including the senior appoint-ments." Given the size of Midland's problems there was speculation that the Bank of England had put pressure on Sir Kit 10 go, but this was

Sir Kit who is 63, was not due to leave for another year. When asked at a press conference "Were you pushed?", he declined to answer.

The imminent departure of a man who was previously him-scif deputy governor of the Bank of England closes a five-year chapter at Midland which began with the bright promise of a new future and a merger with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, but ended in the gloom of a ruptured engage-ment, and the bumiliating divi-dend cut. Although the UK

within the framework of the Soviet constitution. However,

envisaged that this could be

done as the constitution does

not provide such a framework.

the Mr Major's whistle-stop

visit to Moscow seems to bave been to ensure Soviet solidar-

ity in the Gulf, and a first step

to maintain the frankness and

cordiality of the relationship that existed between Mr Gorba-

chev and Mrs Margaret

Thatcher, the former UK prime

"He is a formidable man, with a huge range of achievements behind him," Mr Major said of the Soviet leader, paying tribute to his "compelling" assurances that "he was determined to press on with his

mined to press on with his

On the Gulf, Mr Major said both sides agreed that the Mid-dle East states must them-

selves decide the future secu-

rity arrangements to prevent any repetition of Iraq's inva-sion of Kuwalt. They also

agreed the priority was to find

minister.

The principal achievement of

was unclear how it was



Midland Bank chairman Sir

recession added to Midland's difficulties, the bank also failed to overcome its fundamental problems of high costs and a weak balance sheet under Sir Kit's leadership.

Sir Kit said yesterday: "All banks have suffered, but our results are worse than the oth-

Midland announced pre-tax profits of only £11m (£21.1).

Moscow backs UN action on Gulf

Although this was substan-tially better than the previous man, who had previously been year's loss of £261m and came at the higher end of analysts' expectations, it was far below Midland's competitors. The cut in the dividend, from 18p to 9p.

was deeper than the market had been expecting. The main reason for the poor result was a beavy load of bad debts caused by the UK reces-sion Midland had to more than double its loan loss provisions to \$703m. There was also a loss on the Treasury book because

on the Treasury book because of mistaken decisions taken on the likely course of interest rates in 1989.

However, Sir Kit emphasised that Midland was getting to grips with its problems. He and his colleagues highlighted actions being taken to reduce costs, tighten up credit controls and encourage new business. The bank's difficultles had not affected its ability to attract deposits. Deposit and savings accounts rose by a third to £12.7bn.

The appointment of Sir Peter and Mr Pearse went down well in the City. Sir Peter, who turns 60 next week, is seen as a Details, Page 24

a director of the National Westinster Bank.

Mr Pearse, a 57-year-old banker who has spent hia entire coreer in the Barclays group, was also considered to have the necessary drive to tackle Midland's problems.

After falling sharply, the shares recovered to 187p for a loss on the day of only 3p. Turnover was an exceptionally high 38m shares. John Elliott in Hong Kong writes: A spokesman for the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank-

ing Corporation, which has a t4.9 per cent stake in Midland, said the dividend was "realistic in the light of these results". The cut will be included in the Hongkong Bank's current year's figures, it will therefore

not show up in its annual results for last year, to be pubresults for last year, to be published next Tuesday, which are expected show a significant fall compared with last year's pretax profits of HK\$4.77bn.
Ontsiders to the rescue – again; Editorial comment, Page 16; Lex, Page 18;

UK unveils far-reaching reforms in telecom industry

D 8523A

By Paul Abrahams n London

PLANS FOR a far-reaching reform of the British telecom-munications industry were unveiled by the UK government yesterday in a mnve designed to introduce greater competition in the provision of

fixed-link telecommunication

A white paper published by the Department of Trade and Industry says the duopoly of British Telecom and Mercury Communications should be ended by allowing more com-petition in both local and longdistance markets. It is specifi-cally designed to benefit business customers, although the cost of calls for all users will be reduced by 6.25 per cent a year in real terms.

The policy document opens the way for the government to sell its remaining 49 per cent stake in BT, now worth about £9bn (\$17.3bn).

The new pnlicy marks a watershed in the development of the UK telecommunications market, with a shift from the limited competition between BT and Mercnry to a mnch mnre open market.

In a decade the UK has moved from having its telecommunications services pro-vided by a state monopoly to a position where it will match the US as one of the most libmarkets in the world, populated by a competing group of private sector telecommunications groups.

The policy was only agreed after a fierce power strugle within the industry, in which BT fought against proposals to promote competition. At one stage it threatened to delay liberalisation by furcing the proposals to be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Com-

Announcing the new policy, Mr Peter Lilley, trade and industry secretary, told the House of Commons that the proposals would deliver lower prices, wider choice and a better deal for the customer.

All applications for licences would be considered on their merits and licences would be granted unless there were specific reasons to the contrary. Mr Lilley said.

A formula has been drawn up between the government and BT under which the price of domestic and international calls will fall by 6.25 per cent a year in real terms. The previ-Continued on Page 18

a solution to the Palestinian problem. He said prospects for path of economic reform, and promised that the Baltic repubpendence from the Soviet Union - provided they did so Soviet president Mikhall Gorbachev ushers John Major into the Kremlin during the British prime the Palestinian issue "are minister's first, 24-hour visit to the Soviet Union Saddam's loyal forces gain

ground in battle with rebels By Victor Mallet in Kuwalt City, Tony Walker in Riyadh and Lionel Barber in Washington

TROOPS loyal to President Saddam Hussein were last night using artillery and tanks

mgnt using archiery and tanks
to crush a revolt by military
units centred on Basra, iraq's
second-largest city.

The Republican Guard, people's militia, police units and
loyal members of the defeated
lraqi army appeared to have
won back some controi. In
Washington last night, the Washington last night, the State Department said the revoit had spread to nine

cities. The Supreme Assembly for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI), the Tehran-based Shia Moslem opposition grouping which claims to be behind the revolt, said rebels had taken over at least six cities and towns. These included the Shia holy cities of Kerbala and

In Riyadh, an allied intelli-gence officer said although loyalist forces were recovering ground, the situation was finely balanced. "You get a sense it's growing," he said of the uprising. He added: "One thing Saddam Hussein does best is to handle situations like this." Two Republican Guard divisions, the Hammurabi and Medina, were said to be involved in the fighting. President Saddam was reported to have made his cousin, Mr Ali Hassan al-Majid, responsible for restoring order. Mr al-Ma-jid, still technically minister of local government, was temporarily governor of Kuwait after, last August's invasion. He was

notorious for having crushed a Kurdisb rebellion in the north. A US lieutenant on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border said there was artillery and tank fire around Basra on Monday night. US troops had been put on a chemical weapons alert after refugees streaming into Kuwait reported that military units loyal to Mr Saddam had been using gas to crush the upris-

Republican Guard units were seen to reoccupy yesterday the previously descried area between Basra and the Kuwaiti border to within a few kilo-metres of American positions. Meanwhile, as many as 22 foreign journalists who went towards Basra on Sunday were

still missing. Military briefers in Riyadb said many more checkpoints bad been estab-lished throughout southern behaving as if they were under some form of ceotral control. The US continued to take a hands-off approach to the unrest. However, President George Bush has called on sev-

Iraq vesterday appeared to

eral occasions for the traci peo-ple to overthrow Mr Saddam. Mr James Baker, US secretary of state, repeated earlier statements this week suggesting that future international aid to Iraq could be conditional on the removal of the Iraqi presi-

be moving rapidly to comply with the UN resolutions in order to meet still US cooditions for a permanent ceasefire. A permanent cessation of hostilities - rather than the current temporary arrangement - would allow allied forces to withdraw from southern fraq and give the Baghdad regime more scope to restore order. Gulf reports, Page 2

MARKETS

Japan Business confidence suffers because of | Portugal faces new demands to compensate shareholders Renewed demands for higher compensation



holders in nationalisad Portuguese companies are a recurring irritant bai Cavaco Silva (laft).

STERLING New York lunk \$1.8955 (1.8993) \$1.902 (1.897) DM2.915 (2.915) FFr9.9325 (9.9225) SFr2.54 (2.5375) Y257.5 (257.0) £ index 93.8 (93.7) GOLD New York Comex Apr

Chief price changes

\$366.3 (369.75) \$365.3 (365.75) N SEA OIL (Argus) 3-mo Treasury yield: 6.23% Brent 15-day Apr \$19.65 (19.60)

New York lunch DM1.54 (1.53285) FFr5.245 (5.22) SFr1.3415 (1.3357) Y135.9 (135.53) DM1.533 (1.5365) FFr5.2225 (5.23) SFr1.335 (1.338) Y135.35 (135.5) \$ index 81.9 (62.1) Tokyo close: Y134.88

Long Bond:

US funchtime rates Fed Funds 62%

2,420.1 (+37.2) 1,946.0 (+27.9) FT-A All-Share: 1,171.35 (+1.4%) New York lunc DJ Ind. Av. 2,958.17 (+44.06) S&P Comp 375.11 (+5.78) Tokyo: Nikkei 25,913.48 (-62.54) LONDON MONEY 3-month Inthank close 1231% (1211) Liffe long gift future: Jun 923 (91331

STOCK INDICES

FT-SE 100:

RAISED IN THE HIGHLANDS.



FAMOUS GROUSE FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY

QUALITY IN AN AGE OF CHANGE.

procedure which would belp the peace process.

The apparent shift in posi-tion may be directly connected with the fact that President

brief meeting with President George Bush in Martinique on Thursday next week. Mr Mitterrand revived his

proposal for an international conference last September 24 in an address to the UN Gen-eral Assembly, in the bope that the extension of such an offer would help induce Mr Saddam Hussein to evacuate Kuwait.

But yesterday the French official soft-pedalled the idea. "Our proposal has been represented by others in a carica-tural fashion," he said. We are not maniacs or

only feasible mechanism, but was prepared to envisage any we are not manacs or fetishists, but very pragmatic. We are ready for any procedure, any forum, including direct bilateral contacts, provided it works, and provided it addresses the regional problems of the Middle Fact."

EPORTS from refugees fleeing Basra that Iraqis are calling for Sayeed Mohammed himself Mohammed Bakr al-Hakim to replace President Saddam Hussein (mojtaheed), hot has not to fact (mojtaheed), hot has not to fact (mojtaheed), hot has not to fact (mojtaheed). Tehran's Arabic service as "the Kbomeini of Iraq", and who (perbaps for that reason) was summarily hanged on the orders of President Saddam Hussein in April

Edward Mortimer looks at prospects for 'the biggest religious man in Iraq'

Saddam Hussein arrested 125 members of the Hakim family, executing ten of them

After this Sayeed Mohammed Bakr al-Hakim escaped to Syria, from where he made his way to Iran In October 1980, soon after the beginning of the Iran-Iraq war, he was presented to the press in Tehran as the person capable of "gathering round him all the opposition forces in Iraq". it took time, however, for him to gather even the Islamic Shia forces, since he lacked the authority of Ayatollah Sadr. It was not until 1982 that Sairi was formed, bringing

THE GULF

together various Islamic groups including the Da'wa (Islamic Call) party, the Mujahideen, and the Organisation for Islamic Action. Until 1987 Sayeed Mohammed shared the leadership with another associate of Ayatollah Sadr. better known as a scholar, Sayeed Mah-moud al-Hashimi.

The Hakim family felt the wrath of Saddam Hussein in 1984, when 125 of its members were arrested, ranging in age from nine years old to 75. Ten of them were executed the following year.

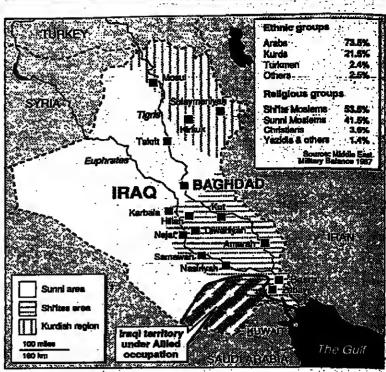
In 1988 Sayeed Mohammed's elder brother Mr Mebdi al-Hakim, a more independent-minded activist who had chosen to base himself in London rather than Tehran, was assas-sinated by Iraqi ageots while attending an Islamic conference in

Over the years, and especially since the end of the Iran-Iraq war, Sayeed Mohammed and his follow-ers hava developed closer relations with secular opposition groups, and have accepted the idea that once Saddam Hussein is ousted the future of the country should be decided in free elections.

Sairi was one of 17 organisations to sign a joint statement calling for democracy and human rights in Iraq on December 27, and it is represented on a five-man action committee then formed to lead the united opposition.

After war broke out on January 17 Sayeed Mohammed Issued a statement saying that if the allies invaded Iraq he might have to sink his differences with Saddam Hussein and join in the defence of the country. It seems unlikely, how-ever, that he will act on this threat

IRAQ'S RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC GROUPS



US steers 'twin-track' route in Mideast Kuwait's rulers

By Lionel Barber in Washington

constitute the first independent

evidence of support inside the country for any of the exiled opposition leaders.

They refer to "the biggest religions man in Iraq". Sayeed Mohammed leads the Supreme

Assembly (or Council) of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (Sairi), a

body set up in Tehran in 1982, at a

time when Iran was driving Iraqi forces out of its territory and hoped

soon to be in a position to install an Islamic revolutionary government

Sayeed Mohammed was born in the holy city of Najal, close to the Eupbrates, in 1939. His father, Ayatollab Mohsen al-Hakim, who died in 1970, was indeed "the biggest religious man" in the world of Shia Islam, in the eyes of his

AS Mr James Baker, US AS Mr James baker, us secretary of state, prepares to launch the first phase of post-war diplomacy in the Middle East this week, the outlines of a fresh US approach to the region are beginning to

include stops in Saudi Arabia, Syria, the Soviet Union, Turkey, and a first visit to Israel at the weekend, describes it as a 'twin-track" proces

"We have got to find a way for Arab states and Israel to make peace, and we have got to find a way for Israel and Palestinians to begin a dialogue," he said last weekend. This represents a new order of priorities. In the first 18

months of the Bush adminis-tration, Mr Baker emphasised

BRITAIN and Israel yesterday

patched up their previously

cool relations with an expression of mutual appreciation

and sympathy which owed much to Israel's restraint dur-

ing the Gulf war, when it

refrained from retaliating against Iraq's Scud missile

Talks in London between Mr

Douglas Hurd, the British foreign secretary, and his Israeli

opposite number Mr David Levy were described as "con-structive and useful" and "atmospherically very good" by the Foreign Office. While it was clear there had

been no real breakthrough on bow regional security prob-

lems and the Palestinian issue,

dled in the aftermath of the Gulf conflict, British officials

By lan Davidson In Paris

THE French government

yesterday appeared to soften its advocacy of an interna-tional conference as the essen-

tial procedure for seeking a peaceful settlement to the con-flict in the Gulf and to the

other problems of the Middle

President François Mitter-rand has long supported the case for a Middle East confer-

ence, but yesterday a senior

French official stressed that

France was not fixated on an international conference as the

Britain and Israel

patch up relations

Paris softens peace

conference stance

By Robert Mauthner, Diplomatic Correspondent

the primacy of the Palestinian issne, attributing near-magical properties to an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue as a catalyst for regional peace.

reached any great eminence in that capacity. His followers have lately taken to referring to him as "Ayatollah", hut he is not recognised as such by other ayatollahs.

His religious credentials are maioly hereditary – the title
"Sayeed" implies descent from the
Prophet – and his own activities
and writings have been mainly

Twice in the 1970s be was arrested and tortured by the Ba'ath regime, on the second occasion being condemned to life

being condemned to life imprisonment, but then released (in

1978) under a general pardon, after

which he was kept under bouse

arrest. He was closely associated with Sayeed Mohammed Bakr al-Sadr.

Tha US has now accepted the argument put forward by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, that a new attempt to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian problem should be linked to progress in relations between Israel and Arab states such as Saudi Arabla, Syria and Jordan.

Mora reluctantly, the administration has also accepted Israei's argument that it deserves US compensation for war damage during the Gulf

Despite hints that Mr Baker wanted to use the Israeli demand as leverage, the

appeared to be more positive

Mr Levy, who had expressed concern before his visit at Mr

Hurd's continued emphasis on the need for Israel to withdraw from occupied territories and the right of the Palestinians to

their own homeland, was relieved to find that he did not

come under much pressure in

Hurd made it clear that did not

Nor was there any point in calling it if it was not clear

who would attend or who

would represent the Palestin-

The ministers agreed that, for a conference to succeed, it

mean immediately.

had to be carefully no

While Britain, believes an international conference on the Arab-Israeli problem is needed "at an appropriate time," Mr

than before.

edministration bas bowed to congressional pressure and indicated it will support at least \$500m (£260m) in cash and military aid — still short of what Jerusalem wants. The "new thinking" in Wasb-

ington aims to create a series of mutually reinforcing confidence-huilding measures between Israel and her neighbours in which both sides might eventually feel able to make concessions.

Several ideas are under study at the US State Depart-ment. Saudi Arabia might, for example, take the lead in modifying or ending the Arab boy-cott of Israeli products; in return, Israel would be expec-ted to ease the clampdown in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The US might also eocourage tentative steps hy Israel and Syria to mend relations and settle the disputed Golan Heights. At a later stage, Mr Baker might propose formal talks between Israel, Syria and Jordan on scarce water resources. (Informal talks are already nnderway using Mr Richard Armitaga, the sea-soned US tronbleshooter, as a

special envoy). These confidence-building steps draw inspiration from an earlier phase in post-war diplo-macy: the Helsluki process which helped to reduce eastwest tensions and led to the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe in 1975. The advantage from President George Bush's viewpoint is that this approach defuses

pressure for an early interna-tional peace conference, in the run up to the 1992 presidential

What is striking is how the US has persuaded the Europeans to tone down their calls for a Middle East peace conference. The implicit trade-off is ence. The implicit trade-on is to allow Europe to share some of the diplomatic burden — a point specifically raised by Mr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Ger-many's foraign minister, in his visit to Washington last week. Mr Genscher bas already begun to take a higher profile in the region, reportedly per-suading King Russein of Jor-dan to consider reviving efforts to put together a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to negotiate with Israel. The EC

are sending three of their num-ber to the Middle East this week, ahead of Mr Baker.

President Bush appears relaxed about the diplomatic initiatives, but he remains concerned about co-ordination. To this end, he will hold talks with President François Mitterand of France on the island of Martinique on March 14, and with Mr John Major, British prime minister, on Bermnda two days later.

 The first large contingent of US troops will return from the Gulf tomorrow and President mony at Andrews Air Force Base. The troops will include members of the 82nd Airborne, the first forces deployed in defence of Saudi Arabia last

impose curfew

KUWAIT'S rulers imposed an indefinite night curiew yesterday a week after occupying Iraqi troops fled in the face of an allied assault, Reuter

reports from Nicosia.

The official Kuwait News Agency KUNA, received in Cyprus, said the curfew would be in force between 10pm and Aam. KUNA, whose report was unsourced, said the curfew was imposed "to complete security and stability aspects in the country."
The emir of Kuwait, Sheikh

Jaher al-Ahmed al-Sabah, last week imposed martial law for three months and appointed his crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad al-Ab-dulla al-Sabah, as military gov-

Kuwait denied yesterday that Palestinians were being mistreated, saying wrongdoers were being pursued regardless of nationality.
"Some irresponsible ele-

ments in Palestinian circles have been repeatedly making false allegations and lies to the effect that the authorities in Kuwait have started acting against the Palestinian com-munity," said foreign minister Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmed al-Sa-KUNA said in a commentary

that reports of attacks on Palestinians appeared designed to drive a wedge through the There were an estimated 400,000 Palestinians living in

Kuwait on the eve of the Irani invasion last August. To most of them, Kuwait was the only home they knew. Nearly 170,000 are still in

Kuwait, accused by some Kuwaitis of collaborating with Iraq during its seven-month Kuwaiti activists in Cairo

will meet in London next week to launch a fresh campeign for the return of a democraticallyelected parliament. Religious, secular and business leaders who led thousands of protesters through the

streets of Knwait before Iran's invasion said on Tuesday they would announce a coalition to press the ruling Sabah family to share its power. "What we are after is a dem

ocratic system, and we want it: immediately," said Ali al-Bi-dah; head of an eight-member. committee organising the March 14-15 meeting. A prominent Kuwaiti-banker said yesterday Kuwaiti's ruling family had drawn up a hit list of members of the coun-

BEST C

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marris 3

try's democratic opposition and hired assassins to kill

"We have strong evidence that some members of the Sahah family are setting up. assassination tasks here in Kuwait," said Abdul Aziz Sultan, chairman of the Gulf Bank of Kuwait, the country's second largest, in a US television

Journalists missing on the road to Basra

By Tony Walker in Riyadh.

THERE WAS increasing alarm iast night over the whereabouts of about 26 journalists who have disappeared in southern Iraq on the road between the Knwaiti border and the

beleaguered city of Basra.
The reporters set off in convoy on Monday and passed through allied lines towards Iraqi forces grouped south of Basra. No word has been heard of them since In Riyadh yesterday an

allied spokesman released a list of 11 reporters and pbotographers who were officially llated as "missing". The list incinded a two-man Cable News Network television crew, two Reuters photographers, five Italian journalists, a correspondent for the New York Times and an American radio reporter.

France subsequently announced that 15 French reporters and photographera were also nuaccounted for after setting off for Basra, scene of three days of street battles between rehel forces and Saddam Hussein loyalists.
A spokesman for the allied
Joint Information Bureau was
highly critical of the reporters, saying "it was a stupid idea to drive up to Basra. There was

have made a terrible error". Meanwhile, the release of Iraqi and allied prisoners of war has been delayed for 24 hours because of bad weather. Iraq yesterday released all 35 of its remaining allied PoWs including 15 Americans and nine Britons. They are expected to leave Iraq today after the delay. A Saudi spokesman said it was hoped that 294 Iraqis could be flown to Baghdad. The allies are holding more than 100,000 Iraqi

no protection. . I think they

An Iraqi spokesman yesterday made no mention of thousands of Knwalti detainees reported to be in frag: their release is a conditions for the ceasefire and withdrawal of allied forces from Iraql

Jimmy Burns adds: Thirty-two Iraqis held as prisoners of war at a military camp in Britain since the middle of January are expected to be released today, according to Ministry of Defence officials.

However, there was no official indication last night that a further 33 Iraqis and Palestlnians detained in civilian prisons by the Home Office as a "national security risk" would also be present risk" would also be released.

Kuwaiti oil men tot up cost of Iraqi destructiveness

The corps has been awarded

a \$46m (£23.9m) contract by the

Kuwait government to manage emergency repairs and

reconnect essential services following the end of the war. It

has so far awarded contracts to three US groups, one Saudi

Arabian company, one Kuwaiti and one British company.

Mr Fraser Morrison, chairman and chief executive of Morrison Construction, said

Morrison.

Up to 15 per cent of the emirate's reserves will go up in smoke, reports Victor Mallet from Ahmadi, Kuwait

T IS difficult to imagine a mercial disaster than the wilful destruction of the Kuwaiti oil industry by Iraq. Yesterday in the Greater Burgan

field, one of the world's largest, hurning crude oil and gas were spurting from dozens of sabotaged high pressure wells with a thunderous roar. The same is true of Kuwait's other fields.

Instead of producing about 1.5m barrels a day, the country is watching in horror as an estimated 6m b/d goes up in thick black smoke, damagiog oil reservoirs, reducing the amount of sunlight reaching the earth and thereby reducing the temperature in parts of Kuwait by several degrees.

At one of the Burgan wells which

At one of the Burgan wells which earth and thereby reducing the tem-perature in parts of Kuwait by sev-

failed to explode, a red bag of explosives attached to a wire and wedged against the wellhead by sandbags could still be seen yesterday. Crude oil from damaged wells which are not burning flows over the road and the desert in a treacly

brown sludge, but Kuwaiti officials are more concerned about toxic bydrogen sulphide which may be blown into populated areas from oil wells in western Knwait.

Of all President Saddam Hussein's acts since the invasion of Kuwait, the destruction of the oilfields was surely the most incomprehensible and spiteful, since it could serve the interests of his regime neither in vic-

"It's a criminal injustice to the whole world it will take time but we will be able to do it."

of pipelines. Some of them were to fill the hurning oil trenches which formed part of their front-line Officials of the Kuwait Oil Com-

By Andrew Taylor, Construction Correspondent

A TEAM of about 20 British

and 80 Saudi Arabian

engineers will start work next

week on the first emergency repairs of Kuwaiti water and

sewerage systems to be done by a British company.

Derbyshire, part of the

privately owned Morrison Construction Group based in

the water and sewerage contract by the US Corps of

Shand Construction of

pany (KOC), the exploration and production arm of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, said yesterday that it could take one or two years to hring the situation under control and five years for Kuwait to regain its previous level of oil exports.

in the meantime they hope to begin producing about 50,000 b/d for local power stations and for domestic gasoline consumption. The only construction work car-

ried out by lraq during its sevenmonth occupation of the Kuwaiti oil fields was for the war effort. Mr Ahmed Murad, one of KOC's managers at the company's beadquarters in Ahmadi, said the Iraqis built 400km

UK group to tackle emirate's water repairs

yesterday the first six British engineers would be flying to Kuwait this weekend, as soon

"These will immediately start work with US and

Kuwaiti engineers assessing the damage and establishing

priorities for work to be carried out," said Mr Morrison.

He said the company would-be taking some labour and plant from Al Rasbeed Shand,

a former joint venture partner

as they had obtained visas.

The Iraqis also built two 45-km long, 16 inch pipelines from the Raw-datain field in the north to the island of Bubiyao, appareotly because they planned to flood the sea with crude oil as they did from the offshore loading point at

Mr Murad said the destruction wrought hy Iraq could reduce Kuwaiti oil reserves by 10 to 15 per cent, while reduced pressure in the fields and water contamination caused by the over-rapid flow might require the use of secondary recovery techniques and raise the cost of production fourfold

On Mouday, KOC officials met rep-

resentatives of specialist US compa-nies which will try to put out the fires as soon as the fields are cleared of mines and unexploded munitions. Mr Murad named them as Red Adair, Evergreen Air, Boots & Coots

in Saudi Arabia. It had also

mada arrangements to hire plant and equipment and

labour from other Saudi

Arabian companies.
The contract, believed to be

worth about \$3m, will involve construction and repair work

as well as damage assesment surveys. "We would expect to

start some physical construction work by the end of next week," said Mr

and Drilling Experts OEG. The damage extends beyond the wells themselves. According to Mr

of about 1,000 wells in Kuwait, 800 were damaged, hut some did not ignite or subsequently burned out. About 550 wells are ablaze. It is estimated that three quarters of the wells can be capped from the surface after the fires are blown out by explosives, and some of the easier ones could be dealt with in a couple of days. But the rest will need to be piugged from the bottom, a costly process which means drilling into

the old well so that mud or concrete can be pumped in. most of Knwait's 26 gathering centres and gas oil separation plants, each of which collect about 100,000 h/d from 30 to 40 wells, are

 some storage facilities have been destroyed, including the 13m barrel facility at Ahmadi, but that is not an immediate priority since there is no oil to store.

much of the oil industry's ancillary equipment has been destroyed by the Iraqis or the allies or stolen by Iraq. \$50m of equipment has been lost by the KOC in Ahmadi alone. The company's headquarters office. one of the oldest buildings in the country, was burnt down.

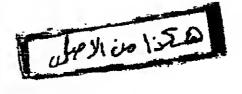
Kuwaiti refineries have not been extensively damaged.

The Flamedal Times (Europe) Ltd
Published by the Financial Times
(Europe) Ltd., Frankfurt aranch,
(Guiolichtstrase 54, 6000 Frankfurt-amMain 1: Telephone 069-75980; Fax
069-722677; Telex 416193 represented
by E. Hugo, Frankfurt/Main, and, as
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Times, Number One Southwark Bridge,
London SE1 9HL. The Financial Times
Ltd, 1991.

Registered office: Number One, Southwark Bridge, London SE(-9HI). Company incorporated under the laws of England and Wales. Chairman: D.B.P. Palmer. Main shareholders: The Financial Times Limited, The Financial News Limited. Publishing director: B. Hughes, 168 Rue de Rivoll, 75044 Paris Cedex OI. Tel: (01) 4297 0621; Fax: (01) 4297 0629. Editor: Richard Lambert-Printer: SA Nord Echair, 15/21 Rue de Caire, 59100 Roubaix Cedex 1. ISSN: ISSN 1143-2753. Commission Paritaire No 67808D.

Financial Times (Scandinavia) Ostergade 44. DK-1100 Copenbagen-K. Denmark. Telephone (33) 13 44 41. Fax (33) 935335.





By Michael Holman, Africa Editor, in London

AID AGENCIES warned yesterday of "a disaster of monumental proportions in the arrived to join the 370,000 existmonumental proportions in the making" in Sudan where nearly 8m people need emergency food aid hecause of shortages created by war and snortages created by war and drought. A further 6m people in Ethiopia, their numbers swollen by refugaes from Somalia, are also at risk.

At a press conference in London officials from Oxfam, the British agency, and the World Food Programme said that

Food Programme, said that food pledges so far meet only one third of the amount

In a new Ethiopia appeal, the World Food Programme warned that the sbortfall in food pledges and cash needed food pledges and cash needed for transport and handling had lead to "a dramatic situation which needs to be addressed immediately and prior to the onset of the lean season between May and October, especially in Eritrea where there is no short season crop to tide the population over".

The erisis in Ethiopla has been exacerbated by the recent

been exacerbated by the recent conflict in Somalia. Mr John Mcgrath, an Oxfam official who has recently returned from the region, told the coning refugees in the country.

The situation is even more critical in Sudan, say relief officials. "Speedy action by all donors and relief agencies is needed to prevent a major catastrophe," Oxfam said yesterday, adding that there were fears that "for many people it is already too late". Other countries in Africa are

badly affected by food shortages, say aid agencies.

Over a million Liberians need food, while in Angola a United Nations special relief programme for nearly 2m people has had to be suspended hecause of the civil war. Malawl needs belp in caring for over 800,000 refugees from Mazambique.

Mozambique.

In Mozambique itself tha situation could become "critical" after July. Nearly 2m war displaced Mozambicans need feeding, and renewed road attacks by rebels have stopped some grain convoys.

In a separate warning the Save the Children aid agency said that up to 15m children "are caught in the pincer of

Central bank's survey shows little evidence of serious slowdown

Japan's business confidence hit by crisis in Gulf

By Stefan Wagstyl in Tokyo

JAPANESE business confidence bas declined because of the Gulf crisis and high interest rates, according to a quarterly economic survey published yesterday by the Bank of Japan. But the survey Indicates there is little evidence of a serious slowdown across the economy.

Economists said confidence was higher than expected, given that the central bank's survey was conducted between January 18 and February 15 - the height of the Gulf crisis. Business activity was still rela-tively high, they added.

"The overall result is posi-tive, bearing in mind the time the survey was done. It means it is unlikely the BoJ will be cutting Interest rates soon," said Mr Keikichi Honda, head of rescarch at the Bank of

Prices in the stock and bond markets were hit as hopes of an early cut in interest rates receded. The Nikkei index of leading shares closed down 62.54 points at 25,913.48. Central bank officials are

likely to maintain their current tight grip on the money sup-ply. Mr Yasushi Mieno, the

governor of the Bank of Japan (BoJ), told a parliamentary committee that prices needed further close monitoring amid continued tightness in the markets for manufactured goods

According to the bank's sur-vey, the index of large manufacturing companies expecting business to be good in coming months dropped three points, from 42 in the last survey. For non manufacturing companies the index fell from 47 to 44.

The falls were particularly severe among property compa-nies, which cited high borrowing costs as a problem. Small service companies were hit by a combination of high interest rates and difficulties in biring

Generally, companies reported a deterioration in their cash positions. For the first time since August 1981 a majority of companies said they expected their liquidity positions to worsen.

Manufacturing companies expect a decline in capital investment of 1.1 per cent in the financial year starting in April - the first reduction in

companies expect a modest rise of 1.1 per cent. Central bank officials pointed out that last

year's level was very high. Laboor sbortages remain acute, the survey says, putting pressure on prices generally. This was taken by economists as a sign that the Bank of Japan would pay close attention to this year's wage negotiations, which reach a climax later this month.

Trade union leaders are seeking increases of 8 to 9 per cent. Employers want to see a figure close to last year's aver-

For this reason, business leaders bave heen unusually supportive of the central bank's tight credit policy. Leaders of Keidanren, the main employers' federation, have endorsed Mr Mieno's policy, even though some of their members are complaining

about an economic slowdown. So far, the clearest sign that the slump which hit the finan-cial and property markets last year is spreading to the real economy is in the car industry, where manufactures are cutting production plans to cope with a decline in demand.

Fed takes action on BCCI

By Alan Friedman in New York

THE Bank of Credit and Commerce Intarnational, the Luxemboorg-hased bank which last year saw two sub-sidiaries admit to having laun-dered millions of dollars on behalf of Panama's former ruler General Manuel Norlega, has been instructed by the US Federal Reserve to sell its sharaholding in a company

which controls Washington's biggest bank. The Federal Reserve order, signed by both US regulators and Mr Zafar lqbal, chief exec-

utive of BCCI, also requires BCCI to cease all banking

operations in the US.

BCCI is required to submit a written plan within 60 days to divest shares in Credit and Commerce American Holdings NV (CCAH).

CCAH).

CCAH is the holding company for First American Bankshares, a Washington bank with \$11bn (£5.8bn) of assets which is chaired by Mr Clark Clifford, a former presidential advisor and former secretary. adviser and former secretary

Mr Robert Morgentbau, Manhattan's district nttorney, said his office had been inves-tigating alleged money laun-dering by BCCl's New York office and the veracity of various fillings of CCAH state-ments to US authorities.

The district attorney said the district attorney sau the Fed order meant that BCCI would now be "ont of the country". BCCI could not be reached for comment yesterday and has declined in the past to say whether it controls first American.

New orders in US decline again

By Peter Riddell, US Editor, in Washington

NEW ORDERS for US manufactured goods dropped a further 1.7 per cent in January, the third decline in a row, pointing to a further weaken-ing in output in the immediate future. Orders for both dura-hles and non-durables fell; the 1.8 per cent decline in the for-mer was twice as large as initially estimated.

However, there have been some signs that the worst is over. The monthly purchasing managers' index picked up in February for the first time

since last May, with a slight rise in the new orders compo-

The Commerce Department said the decline in new orders for durables resulted mainly from lower demand for electrical machinery and transporta-

tion equipment, with orders for aircraft especially volatile. The fall in non-durable orders reflected lower demand for food and petroleum prod-ucts. Unfilled order slipped back 0.2 per cent in January. for the second time in three

months, while manufacturers' inventory was unchanged in the month.

The administration is confident the economy will start picking up, especially with the boost to consumer and busi-ness confidence provided by the end of the Gulf war. Mr John Robson, the Trea-

sury deputy secretary, told a Congressional committee yes terday that the administration believed "there may be latitude for further movement lin eas-

Argentina threatens rail sell-off

By John Barham

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ARGENTINA has threatened to privatise all rail services to force an end to a three weeklong wildcat strike that has developed into the most seri-ous challenge to President Carlos Menem's effort to tame

Mr Domingo Cavallo, the economy minister, said that the railways would be closed

the rallways would be closed until thay were privatised, unless the strike ended immediately.

Mr Orlando Norberto, a strike leader, said: "This is lunacy. I'm not sure if they are serious or if it's an attempt to serious or if it's an attempt to break the strike."

Mr Eduardo Nava, the rail network's administrator, said yesterday that everyone wanted a swift return to normal running of the strike-hit President Menem compro-

mised yesterday by offering a 25 per cent pay increase and a \$53 advance; strikers are demanding a 200 per cent Mr Cavallo said the rail system, Ferrocariles Argentinos, which transports 1.2m passen-gers daily, lost \$480m aum-ally. He said its closure would save the Treasury \$10m a month in operating subsidies. The government has laid on

an emergency bus service to compensate for lost rail ser-Argentina has already sold a railway line to a group of local and foreign investors. The sale

took 18 months to negotiate.

Pretoria investigates life office

By Phillp Gawith in Johannesburg

THE South African government has launched an investigation into alleged trading irregularities at Old Mntual, the country's largest

life office. This follows an internal investigation which revealed that crimes may have been committed: Two members of staff were suspended on Febru-ary 14 in connection with the

investigation.

Mr Kobie Coetsee, the minister of justice, and Mr Barend du Plessis, the minister of finance, jointly announced a senior team to investigate the affair. It includes Attorney-General Mr Frank Kahn SC, the Registrar of Financial Institutions, senior Department of Financa officials, tha SA Police, members of the Reserve Bank (central bank) and the private sector.

Mr. Gerhard van Niekerk, Old Mutual's chief operating officer, said "a few investment transactions recently came to light which individually appeared completely normal but collectively showed a sus-

picious trend". He said the matter had been handed over to the authorities as soon as it appeared a crimi-nal investigation might be warranted. Mr van Niekerk said there was no indication that individual policybolders or unit trust investors had been, or were likely to be, preju-diced. Pension funds that might be affected had been

Our customers said "We can't go on meeting like this."



Reform rift likely to tarnish Peru's image

By Sally Bowen in Lima

PRESIDENT Alberto Fujimori of Peru has suffered a political setback, following a public rupture between his government and a key presidential adviser.

Tha split is likely to damage the international financial community's image of Peru, which had been improving steadily since Mr Fujimori took

office in July 1990.

The rift was over promulgation of a decree on the "democratisation of government deci-sion-making". Mr Hernando de Soto considered the reform as the cornerstone of all other structural changes on the agenda of his Institute for Freedom and Democracy (ILD), an informal think-tank for the Fujimori administration.

The decree provides for prior publication and popular con-sultation on a wide range of the 26,000 legal acts promul-pated each year in Peru. Presi-dent Fujimori had announced the reform with apparent

enthusiasm last week. But his cabinet cut it mercilessly, it was finally published in an form unacceptable to the H.D. which accused ministers of "opting for authoritarian-

Mr de Soto had been Peru's chief negotiator with the US on a new bilateral drug-trafficking policy. The agreement - which has saved Peru from possible disqualification from US aid - is almost ready for signature. He had also played a key rele in establishing contacts to normalise Peru's international

financial relations.

Mr de Soto explained that all other H.D-proposed reforms — which include crop substitution projects for coca-growing farmers, reform of the judicial



Alberto Fujimori: facing

system, and administrative simplification – depended directly on the Fujimori gov-ernment's commitment to the democratisation of decision-

making "Without this reform, all the major structural changes needed in Peru cannot come about," he said. "Everything else is negotiable, but not

Mr de Soto said that, despite his close involvement in tha still inconclusive procedures national financial relations, his departure should not affect the process. Diplomatic sources interpreted the estrangement between the government and the HD as serious, especially for Peruvian-US ties. Opposition to Mr de Soto has recently increased; the media

has increasingly referred to him as "the informal President" or even "the Rasputin of

a political setback

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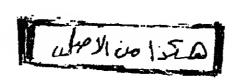
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Germans to win most bids Albanians seize more boats to escape for Soviet army housing

By Leyla Boulton in Moscow

SOVIET authorities have put out the first of several tenders for the German-financed con-struction of DM7.8bu (£2.7bu) worth of housing for troops returning from Germany.

Twenty-four western compa-nies are preparing bids for a tight March 25 deadline, but German construction companies are likely to get the lion's share of the contracts. Germany is paying for the construction of 36,000 flats as part of a compensation package for Moscow to withdraw its 370,000 troops from former East German territory by the end of

The first tender, for the construction of 4,522 flats in four towns (two in the Russian Federation, one in Belorussia and another in the Ukraine), will be followed by several others in close succession. The first batch of flats is due for comple-

tion by the end of March 1992. Fourteen bidders in this round are German, including Strabag and Dywidag, Philipp Holzmann and Hochtlef. There are also four Turkish compa-nies including Enka, three from Finland including Polar and Haka, two French compa-nies including Dumez, as well

The Soviet Union may be able to use some of the Ecu500m (£351.5m) worth of promised credit from the EC to buy food in east Europe as well as from the Community itself, as a result of European Parliament pressure

pean Parliament pressure yesterday on protectionist gnvernments, writes David Buchan in Brussels.

The possibility of helping both the hungry Soviet Union and some east European countries with food surpluses is to be studied by the Commission, EC ministers and leading MEPs agreed yesterday. agreed yesterday.

This triangular form of food aid, proposed by Italy and backed hy northern EC states and the Commission.

had been blocked by France, Spain and others until the parliament intervened. as one each from Austria and

Italy. Successful bidders are due to be chosen by the end of March, with contracts to be signed in April, and work to begin in May.

Non-German companies fear, however, that thay may be competing on unequal terms.

They point to the fact that five German consulting firms hired by Bonn are taking part in the selection process, together with Soviet defence and foreign trade officials.

The Germans are saying that they have to prove to domestic opinion that Germany will get something out of this aid to the Soviet Union," said an executive from one

said an executive from one construction company.

A DM12bn aid package to finance the withdrawal of Soviet troops is part of the price exacted by Moscow for the inclusion of a united Germany in Nato. The Soviet parliament on Mouday ratified the "2 plus 4" treaty, setting the final legal seal on German unity.

unity.
The Soviet Union's desperate housing shortage makes the construction aid particularly important, even though the German money is expected to meet just half the needs for the returning troops. Poor housing and pay have hecome au important source of discontent in the armed forces, prompting some military to protest that Moscow should have insisted troops from eastern Europe.

Berlin 'to have 20% jobless'

By Leslie Colitt in Berlin

BERLIN may soon face a doubling in the unemployment rate to 20 per ceut, which would be the highest level of any leading German city, a Berlin economics official

suggested yesterday.
Mr Lothar Stock, senior adviser to the Berlin economics department, said 370,000 people could be out of work by July if the Bonn government did not come up with addi-tional aid. The psychological impact for the city, especially the eastern part where the unemployment rate is already 10.1 per ceut, would be "extremely negative".

The newly-elected Berlin city government is negotiating with

Bonn not only for more funds but also for a slowdown in the planned reduction in incen-

THE BONN government's

economist of Dresdner Bank, to

take over as state secretary at

from Mr Jürgen Möllemann,

the new economics minister,

for a mixture of professional

and family reasons.

tives and subsidies to west Berlin industry and employers.
Some 30,000 jobs are threatened in west Berlin.
The city is still deeply divided economically. West Berlin is booming as the retail

sector reaps the heuefits of fresh purchasing power from surrounding east Berlin and east Germany. Much of the money ironically comes in the form of employment subsidies to the east from Bonn. Mnreover, tens of thousands of easterners have found jobs in west

In depressed east Berlin, 80,000 ostensibly employed peo-ple are not actually working but are being paid until the end of June. Another 130,000 are clinging on to administrative jobs. Mr Stock said that

Dresdner economist to stay on

as the state secretary responsi-

The transfer to Bonn by a

respected member of the

Frankfurt banking community

would have been a highly

unusual move in Germany,

where such sideways shifts are

less common than in the US.

Frankfort will come as a blow

to Mr Möllemann, who is battl-

ing to give the economics min-

istry more influence after a

decline in its standing in

After agonising for several days, Mr Lipp decided that the move would impede his career

London

Leeds

Birmingham

Edinburgh

Manchester

Mr Lipp's decision to stay in

ble for macroeconomics.

France or Britain.

west German industry would not move management to Ber-lin unless the city became the seat of government as well as the capital.

■ West German industrial production rose 3.5 per cent in January, with the construction industry up 29.5 per cent, according to provisional seasonally-adjusted figures from the authorities, Katharine Campbell writes from Frank-furt Economists said the numbers testified to the continuing strength of the German econ-omy - the manufacturing sector registered 2.5 per ceut growth. But they said tha surge in construction activity had more to do with weak December numbers than with a sudden extra spurt in Ger-

He is thought to have a good chance of advancement to the

Dresdner Bank management

board later in the 1990s.

Although the salary did not play a prime role in his decision, his present earnings, and particularly his future salary potential, are snh-stantially more than the

DM16,000 (\$10,560) a month (DM12,000 after tax) he would

have earned as the top civil

servant in the economics min-

Pressure on his family life as

precautions necessary for top

officials in Bonn, are also

understood to have played a

By Judy Dempsey

HUNDREDS of Aibanians yesterday continued to seize boats and cross the Straits of Otranto to Italy in search of

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

political asylum. The Italian authorities at the port of Brindisi have already set up refugee camps and expect more Albanians despite attempts by port officials to prevent their boats from dock-ing.

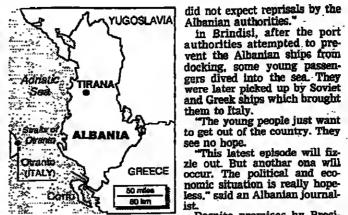
The latest mass exodus of

Albanians, which started last weekend, is the second since last June, when more than 5,000 stormed western embassy compounds demanding the right to emigrate.

Thousands of people have arrived at Albania's southern port of Vlore over the last few

days, following rumours that Italian ships were arriving to bring them to Italy. But when they only saw

Albanian hoats, some owned by the naval and military



authorities, they hijacked them. "The Albanian crew brought them to Otranto," said one Italian journalist.
"But theo tha crews turned

hack because they had left their families behind in Albania. The crews said they

authorities attempted to prevent the Albanian ships from docking, some young passen-gers dived into the sea. They were later picked up by Soviet and Greek ships which brought

in Brindisi, after the port

"The young people just want to get out of the country. They see no hope.
"This latest episode will fiz-

zle out. But another one will occur. The political and eco-nomic situation is really hopeless," said an Albanian journal-

Despite promises hy President Ramiz Alia, head of the ruling Albanian (communist) Party of Labour, to hold free elections on March 31, there is growing instability in the

Students and workers last month tore down statues of Enver Hoxha, the founder of the APL who ruled the country with an iron fist until his death in 1985.

Hardline factions in the APL and the senior ranks in the army, who owe their position to Hoxha, then quickly regained the political initiative by organising pro-Hoxha dem-onstrations and re-erecting the

statues: Unconfirmed reports from Tirana, the capital, say the authorities have put on trial the people who pulled down

"The situation is confused. For the moment, Mr Alia is in charge," commented an Albanian academic.

However, the pace of the col-lapse of central authority and the deterioration of the economy may force many more young Albanians to fiee across the Straits of Otranto.

to a head with a projosal to amend the compensation law to be presented shortly to parliament by the small rightwing CDS opposition party.

CDS officials say they will push for a vote on a bill which could cost the treasury up to Esc220bn (\$1.65bn) unless an agreement can be reached with agreement can be reached with the government on improving compensation terms. This puts the government in an awkward position with many members of the ruling Social Democrats likely to be sympathetic to the former

Portuguese

marred by

privatisation

demands for

compensation

By Patrick Blum in Lisbon

JUST as the Purtuguese

government resumes its ambi-tious privalisation programme halted by the Gulf war - it is facing renewed demands for

higher compensation to be

given to former owners and shareholders of companies

nationalised in the mid-1970s.

The issue, which has been a

recurring irritant for the cen-tre right Social Democratic

government of prime minister Anihal Cavaco Silva, is coming

to a head with a proposal to

bareholders' case.
Groups of shareholders have been lobbying for years for increases on what most describe as miserable levels of compensation. Their campaign has built up steam since the government began its sale of state assets in 1988, though they have failed so far in their legal efforts to stop the re-pri-vatisation of their former companies.

A few figures give an indication of the scale of the problem: between March 1975 and November 1976 more than 240 large companies were national-ised. Their stakes in other companies brought nearly 900 com-panies under state control, according to a report in Pub-lico, the respected daily news-They included all domestic

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John State C

banks, insurance firms and a wide range of manufacturing and service companies, incluing brewers and cement makers, paper, pulp, steel, tobacco, oil, petrochemicals, electricity, transport and fishing companies, as well as newspapers. The government wants to sell the bulk of these assets to the public. It has already begun the pro-

cess, hut many more, including some of Portugal's largest companies, are earmarked for pri-vatisation this year and next... The privatisations have

proved a welcome source of extra state revenues, and sales to date have raised Esc141bn (\$1hn), of which Esc112.8bn was used to repay part of the public debt and Esc28.2bn to strengthen the capital base of other public sector companies. Privatisations planned for this year would easily more than double revenues so far.

The government's strategy has repeatedly come under fire focusing too much on maximis-ing revenues instead of helping to consolidate private Portuguese groups, and for ignoring the rights of former sharehold-

Ministers have rejected the criticisms as unfounded, and until recently, the government argued that as it was not responsible for the nationalisations in the first place it is not bound to improve compensation payments.

Nevertheless, under growing pressure, ministers have started to suggest that some-thing could be done to improve on the current levels of compensation.

Most former shareholders have been given bonds of 20 years or more maturity with interest as low as 2.5 per cent for holdings above Esc5m. Some shareholders have not received any compensation because the process of valuing assets has still not been completed, and because of bureaucratic delays which some critics say stem from lack of government political will. Also in dispute is the value

of expropriated assets and Groups representing former shareholders and the Confederation of Portuguese Industry say the government's figure of Esc150bu for tha companies

seized over a decade and a half ago, grossly underestimates their worth. They say the amounts of compensation paid is but a fraction of the money reaped by the government from the privatisations.

With the privatisation of Tranquilidade, an insurance

company, for example, the gov-ernment raised Esc44.7on, compared with about Esc1.5th paid out in compensation to its for-mer shareholders. The Espirito Santo family,

the company's owners until its nationalisation, regained controi of Tranquilidade by paying what most analysts consider to have been an excessively high price for the privatised shares.

"It's daylight robbery. They [the government] are simply selling companies that were stolen from their owners in the first place," says an ex-shareholder in another company.

Hungarians angered by Polish debt deal

cabinet ministers, Mr Bielecki will also

seek Bonn's support for an 80 per cent cut in Polish debt by the Paris Club, Reuter

reports from Bonn. Pollsh-German treaty talks have been stalled since December, one month after Mr Kohl and the former

THE WEST'S decision to reduce Poland's foreign debt is aggravating social tensions in Hungary and increasing domestic pressure for resched-uling. Mr Mihaly Kupa, the Hungarian finance minister, said yesterday, Nicholas Den-ton writes from Budapest.

the Polish prime minister, Mr Jan Krzys-tof Bielecki, to Boun yesterday for the revival of talks on a friendship treaty

between the two countries. In two days of

meetings with Chancellor Kohl and senior

The finance minister was speaking a week after the International Monetary Fund approved in principle a \$2bn extended credit to Poland. This cleared the way for a

write-down of the country's 48bn foreign debt by a probagovernment pay promptly \$21bn foreign debt can he while "the Polish government financed - without negotiadoes whatever it wishes on repayment", Mr Kupa said.
"Someone who behaves well is penalised and someone who behaves badly gets special rewards and benefits," he com-

As politicians linked Hunga ry's debt burden and its inability to finance crucial exports to the Soviet Union, calls for rescheduling might get louder,

"We might find it very diffi-cult to defend ourselves." Budapest remains adamant,

however, that the country's

financed - without negotia-tion - by foreign investment, new borrowing, and growth in exports to the west.
As one measure to encourage foreign investment, Mr Kupa yesterday announced plans for legislation in the next

few months to give foreigners the right to buy land. Until now they have needed

to form joint ventures to do so. Tha proposal is part of a package of laws designed to promote investment by resolving the confusion over owner-

and convartibility" four-year economic programme, which the govarnment should approve tomorrow. This week Hungary also returned to the bond markets

priority of his "stabilisation

Polish prime minister, Mr Tadeusz Mazo

wiecki, signed an agreement fixing the border on the Oder and Nelsse rivers, for-

mally ceding to Poland large tracts of

German land given by the Allies as com-pensation for territory lost to Moscow.

with a DM200m five-year issue despite a rise in funding costs to about 250 basis points over The margin reflects what the

Organisation for Economic described as a sharp deteriora-

tion of market sentiment towards eastern Europe which was forcing the region to turn to official lenders.

Mr Kupa said this was the

at \$53.2bn in November.

Economists suggest that

reserves were boosted by surging capital inflows, particularly to the Spanish

"We're still seeing spectacular flows into

government bonds,"

hond market.

according to provisional data released yesterday by the Bank of Spain, AP-DJ reports rift over The official reserves stood at \$53.104bu in December and Emu pace continues

By Ian Davidson in Paris

According to the latest available data, net inflow of foreign capital jumped to Pesetas 196.3bn in January against Pesetas I 1.6bu a year here yesterday.
After a meeting of the Fran-

commented an economist at UBS Phillips & Drew Ltd in They also noted several rounds of concerted dollar buying to curb the greenback's decline in February likely helped the increase in official

Moscow bans

industry, writes Quentin Peel in Moscow.

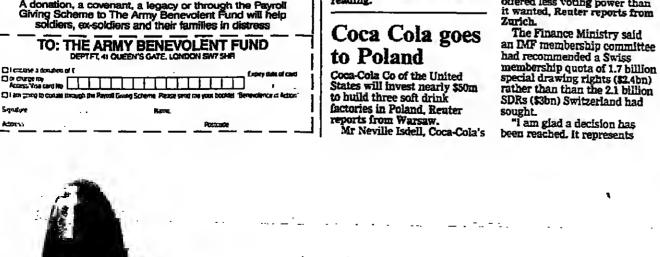
the industry would have disastrous effects on every other sector of the Soviet economy.

production was 1.5m tonnes below target in January and February, while rolled metal was 1m tonnes down. Additional measures to mobilise collection of some 10m tonnes of scrap were ordered, enough "to ensure uninterrupted work of the metallurgical industry."

coal exports The Soviet Union has banned

exports of coking coal and scrap metal, and increased the price of scrap by 60 per cent, in an emergency plan to tackle the crisis in its huge steel

The moves were announced yesterday by the Cabinet of Ministers, along with a warning that the collapse of The announcement said steel



EUROPE IN We will build two factories

Parliament debates law

regulating the activities of the mighty KGB security

the basis of the constitution and glasnost. Some deputies protested however that the legislation does not clarify how the agency would be made accountable for split up into different services so that it does not cover areas

intelligence, mass disorders and organised crime. The legislation is likely to sail through a first reading today but some amendments may before it gets to a final

representative for Northern and Eastern Europe and Africa, said the investment was the biggest announced by any US company in Poland since the collapse of communism in 1989

in Warsaw and one in (the Baltic port of) Gdynia," Mr Isdell said after a meeting with Polish President Lech Walesa. Greanpeace

launch ship

The international environment group Greenpeace launched a new ship yesterday and said its crew would monitor the transport of nuclear waste off the coast of Dunkirk, Reuter reports from Amsterdam. The Solo, a 67-metre (220-feet) converted tug equipped with a helicopter

deck, animal hospital and laboratory, is the eighth boat in the Greenpeace fleet and will operate in the North Sea, a spokesman said. It will leave the Dotch port of Den Helder for the coast off Dunkirk on Friday to protest against the transport

Swiss press to ioin IMF

of nuclear waste in ships

against fires or accidents.

without special safeguards

Switzerland said on yesterday it would go ahead with its application for international Monetary Fund membership even though it had been offered less voting power than it wanted, Reuter reports from 6.7 per cent year-on-year in per cent in January and 5.2

below ISTAT's earlier forecast that year-on-year inflation would be 6.8 per cent in February.

reserves rose \$756.7m in February to \$55.269bu from \$54.512bu in January,

Bonn, Paris

FRANCE and Germany have failed to settle their disagreement over the timing of moves towards Economic and Mone tary Union (Emn) in the European Community, the two Finance Ministers admitted

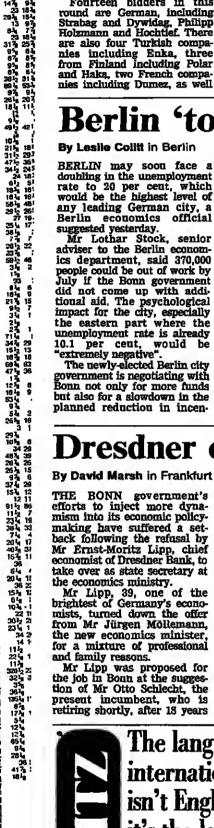
co-German Economic and Financial Council, Mr Theo Walgel, German Finance Min-ister, maintained that the two governments continued to agree on the final objectives of Ecnnomic and Monetary Union. Mr Pierre Bérégovoy, his

French counterpart, stressed that the two governments were still both committed to the target of a single currency and a single European Central Bank. But the Ministers made no

secret of continuing differences over the phasing of the establishment of the new European System of Central Banks. The French govern-ment insists that it should be set up at the beginning of Phase Two of Economic and Monetary Union, which is due to start on January 1, 1994, as the precursor of a European Central Bank. The German government now argues that it should not be set up until after the beginning of the third and final phase of EMU, which could start in 1997 at the earli-

According to Mr Beregovoy, the French government is anxious to set a date in advance, whereas the German government is rejuctant to set up a central bank system until the EMU process has passed the point of no return.

هكذا من الاجل



Mr Lipp was proposed for the job in Bonn at the sugges-tion of Mr Otto Schlecht, the retiring shortly, after 18 years prospects in private business.

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istry.



for KGB The Soviet parliament yesterday began debating the country's first ever law

agency.

The draft bill sets out the duties and rights of the Committee for State Security and says it should operate on infringements of the new law. Others wanted the KGB to be

as diverse as the protection of borders, all forms of

Hungarians had seen their a reasonable basis for continuing efforts to join tha IMF," the Finance Minister Mr Otto Stich said in an interview.

Hunger strike over language Some 100 Bulgarian nationalists opposed to the teaching of Turkish in the

country's schools have begun their second week on hunger strike, nationalist leaders said, Reuter reports from Sofia. Mr Evgeni Drumev, leader of the Committee for Protection of National interests in the northeastern town of Razgrad, said schoolchildren, students and

other teenagers were on strike in eight towns on Tuesday. Tension between Bulgarian nationalists and the country's 1.5m ethnic Turks has mounted in the past five weeks after the government decided to allow Turkish to be taught as an optional

subject on an experimental basis in some schools. Italian prices

rise by 6.7% Italian consumer prices rose February, compared with 6.5 in February 1990, the National Statistics Institute (ISTAT) said, Reuter reports from

Rome. The figure was slightly

Cuurency boost for Spain Spain's official currency

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Japan warns car makers to limit exports to EC

By Robert Thomson in Tokyo

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(2) mirms والمستعدد الموادر والمساور JAPAN'S Ministry of International Trade and Indus-try (Miti) has made clear to the country's car makers that it would disapprove of attempts to compensate for slower US sales with a surge in exports to the EC.

The ministry fears that a sudden increase in shipments to the Community could compromise the sensitive negotia-tions on access for Japanese cars to the single European market, and has noted that exports of passenger cars to the EC rose by 12.9 per cent in January against the seme month last year.

At the same time, Japanese

makers have announced cuts in production for the US marin production for the US mar-ket and have released modest targets for the domestic mar-ket, which has flattened after several years of growth. The Japanese government has been waiting for the EC to

has been waiting for the EC to agree on a common policy for car imports, and to settle issnes such as the status of components and snhsidies, which have divided EC partners. When the EC reeches

negotiations will be held with Japanese representatives to get approvel for "voluntary" restraints.

A Miti official said that e monitoring system on exports to the EC had been in place since 1986, and makers had been advised to take care not to disrupt the market. A spokesman for Nissan, the

Japanese maker, said the com-pany had been advised to be "prudent" and had abided by

The ministry emphasised yesterday that no specific target had been set for Japanese exports. However, makers had been told to ensure export lev-els "will not create confusion

in the European market".

Yesterday, Mr Lindsey Halstead, chairman of Ford of
Europe, warned that the
European Community should he cautious in ramoving restrictions on Jepanese car sales in Europe. Japanese car imports and local Japanese car production in Europe remain the most sensitive outstanding problem to be resolved in the creation of the single European market from the end of 1992.

N American clash over newsprint price rises

By Bernard Simon in Toronto

AN INTENSE tussle is taking place between North American newsprint producers and their customers over a price increase which was due to take effect at the beginning of the

Publishers' efforts to roll hack the 5.5 per cent price risee have hurst into the open with e decision by four US newspaper groups which con-trol the Ponderay mill in Washington atete to take legal ection against their operating partner, Canadian Pacific Forest Products, which refuses to rescind the increase.

An official at Knight-Ridder, the Miaml-based newspaper group which is one of the Ponderay shareholders, said yes-terday that "our business is lousy. We think the price increase is the wrong thing at this time". CP Forest has a 40 per cent equity stake in the

project.

The pricing battle is being nervously wetched by banks which have provided sizeable project loans for several of the mills which have come on stream in the past few years and which are now contributing to a glut of newsprint. The Ponderay mill, for example, was financed with \$242m of

deht and \$110m of equity. Mr Amit Wadhwaney, analyst et MJ Whitman & Co in banks may become more

BANKERS

support higher prices or to recapitalise ailing mills. So far, only three relatively small US producers, two of them owned hy publishing compenies, have publicity amounced e rollback in prices. However, discounts are wide spread, and in some cases are said to have widened since the official price increase took

Hard-pressed Canadian producers, which need the price increase to offset the strong Canadian dollar and rising environmental and labour costs, are resisting pressure from their customers especially strongly. An official at Donohue, e Montreal-based producer which has a joint mill venture with the New York Times, said that "we're involcing et the

The Canadian producers, which account for about 55 per cent of North American sales, are instead hoping to bring supply into line with demand by temporarily shutting down Abitihi-Price, the biggest

Canadian producer, amounced in January that it would cut first-quarter output by 40,000 tonnes. Since then, it has decided to prolong a shutdown at its hig froquois mill to be followed by a shortened work

ers have announced shutdowns in the past week.

The professional firms who were closely involved with the

PRIVATISATION OF THE TEN WATER AND SEWAGE BUSINESSES OF ENGLAND AND WALES have kindly pledged their support for the

WATERAID 1990s FUND

WaterAid's post privatisation appeal to help more communities in Africa and Asia to build safe water

supplies and sanitation

ACCOUNTANTS

Eximbank tests the Soviet market

THE US Export-Import Bank is making a cantious entry into the Soviet market for the first time since President Bush in December gave a six-month waiver to legislation blocking trade ties between the two superpowers, writes Nancy Dunne in Washington.

The US trade finance agency has quietly given initial approval to two requests for backing from US exporters. The details are being closely held, as is customary with pre-liminary commitments. Eximbank will say only that one project involves financing for a glass processing plant; the other, a short-term insurance policy for the sale of snper phosphoric acid.

With preliminary commitments in hand, US exporters have an assurance of loans, guarantees or insurance, pro-viding they can make the sales. Deals may then be concinded rapidly, or may still take months or even years.

Eximbank has been barred from providing financing to the Soviet Union by the Jack-son-Vanik amendment, which links Soviet emigration policy and the granting of preferen-tial treatment under Most Payoured Nation status. Even now, under another provision, its financing is lim-ited to \$300m. Mrs Jenni Falklewicz, Eximbank spokes-

woman, said the agency has received financing requests totalling more than \$900m.
"This is the beginning of a "This is the beginning of a good faith effort to huild a bridge of trade and economic transactions with the Soviets," she said. But the agency is fol-lowing events in the republics closely and scruitinising every transaction on a case by case

Greece invites tenders for dam

THE GREEK government is inviting international bids for e Dr40hn (\$250m) dam project in central Greece to boost water supplies for Atheus,

writes Kerin Hope.
The project calls for construction of an 90-metre high earth dam across the Evinos river and a 30-kilometre tun-nel to feed the depleted Mornos reservoir serving the capt-tal. Fanding will come from the state investment budget, according to the public works ministry. Selected bldders will be asked to submit tenders this summer. Construction should start within 1991 and be completed in 1994.

The government is giving the project top priority since Athens faces an severe water shortage. For the second successive year the Mornos reservoir, 150 kilometres from the capital, contains harely enough water to last through reduce consumption, accord ing to the city water authority.

MARKETING

D'Arcy Masius Benton & Bowles

Ford signs engine deal with Yamaha

FORD has signed a contract with Yamaha of Japan for the design and development of a small engine to be used in its European car range from the mid-1990s.

Yamaha had been commis-sioned earlier to carry out an advanced devalopment study for a new small engine range for Ford of Europe, but it has now been awarded a full contract to devciop the engine up

to the prototype stage.

Ford said that Yamaha
would be responsible for
around one third of the total development work on the engine. This is the first time that Ford of Europe has conelement of its mainstream engine development pro-gramme to an outside engineering company and the first time that it has turned to

Separately it already employs Cosworth, a suhsidiary of Vickers in the UK, to develop high performance engines, and it has also used Porsche for contract engineering work.

Once Yamaha has produced the first prototypes, Ford itself will take over the testing, evaluation and production engineering. The engine programme, code-named Sigma, is currently planned to be a family of i.0, i.25 and i.4 litre

It is the first time Ford has contracted out such an important element of its mainstream engineering development programme, and the

first time it has turned

engines and will replace the company's existing 1.i-1.3 litre small engines produced at its plant in Valencia, Spain. Valencia is also the favoured

cost more than \$1bn, although Ford is believed to be seeking to cut the costs through the use of simultaneous engineering methods, it is planning a second phase of investment for

tion phase of the Sigma project with a planned capacity for 500,000 engines a year with output expected to begin in 1995. A project on this scale could the Sigma engine range with an additional capacity for 300,000 engines a year. If this goes ahead Valencia or the South Wales engine plant are the most likely locations. Ford's engine programme is

being drastically updated in the next five years, however. and it is also working to

enticipated joint-venture would be, nor did it specify how much the German partner would be ready to invest in the

ailing Slovak enterprise.
"We agreed to sign an agree-ment with the German firm by

the end of March," Slovak Pre-mier, Mr Vladimir Meciar said,

adding that production in the BAZ factory should start in December this year.

Volkswagen plans to mannfacture 350,000 transmissions

per year in the initial stages et BAZ, expanding into the pro-

develop the Orbital two-stroke engine as an alternative unit to power small cars, including a possible mini car smaller than its existing Flesta supermini. Introduction of the twostroke engine could overtake the second phase of the Sigma project. Ford said yesterday that the scale of its existing

commitments to develop new engines had made it impossible to develop the entire Sigma engine project with its own engineering resources in Europe. Ford in the US has previonsly used Yamaha to develop

and produce e high performance engine for its US Tau-

GM predicts sharp decline in VW wins approval for BAZ venture car sales to western Europe

By Kevin Done in Geneva

GENERAL MOTORS of the US, one of the hig six volume car makers in Europe, has revised downwards its forecast for vestern European new car sales by around 350,000 units or nearly three per cent following the Gulf war. Before the war started GM

was expecting new car sales in western Europe (including eastern Germany) to total around 13.25m this year, a 1.3 per cent fall from the 13.42m

per cent tail from the 13.42m achieved last year.
Mr Robert Eaton, president of GM Europe, said the company had recently cut its forecast to 12.9m, however, representing a decline of some 500,000 units or almost 4 per cent from 1900. cent from 1990. "Some merkets such as

Spain, Sweden or the UK are weak, with the UK and Sweden clearly in recession," he said. Only Germany would show any significant growth this

year. Mr Eaton said that GM expected new car demand in western Europe during the 1990s to grow hy an average of 1.5 per cent a year, however, reaching about 14.5m units hy the end of the decade compared with 13.4m units last

He forecast an annual aver

age growth rate for light com-mercial vehicles of 2 per cent a mercial vehicles of 2 per cent a year with western European sales rising from about 1.9m units in 1990 to 2.1m in 1995 and 2.3m in the year 2000.

By the mid-1990s Europe would be the largest single total new vehicle market in the world at 17.7m units and by the end of the decade GM forecast that the combined each cast that the combined east and west European vehicle

Unlike several of its rivals GM is not currently planning any production cut-hacks in Europe to cope with falling demand in the total market. Mr Eaton said the company was confident its plants would "continue operating at high capacity levels throughout the

He said that GM was plan ning to press ahead with its plan to increase its capacity in Europe hy 25 per cent in the medium term.

Mr Eaton forecast that Japa-neae car makers would increase their share of the western European market from 11.6 per cent last year to 15 per cent by the mid-1990s and 20 per cent or more by 2060.

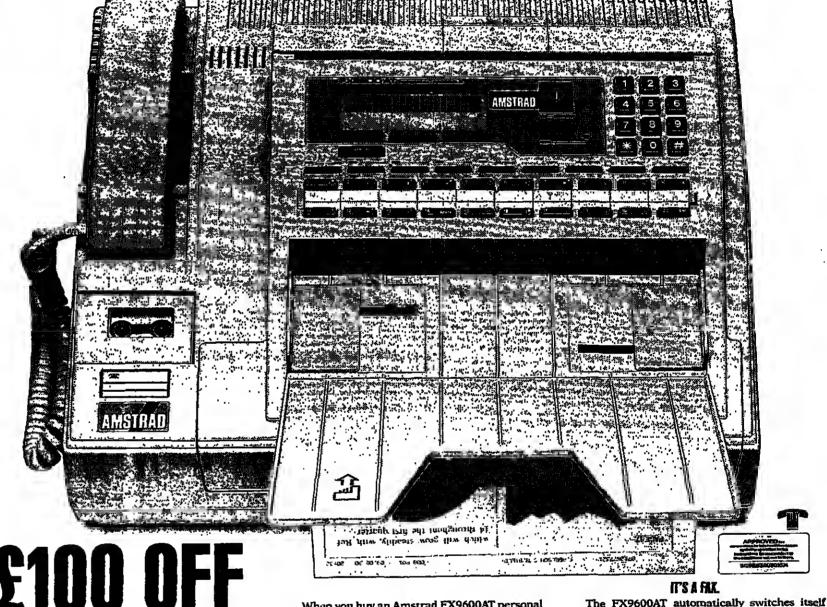
Currently they already held e share of more than 30 per cent in the unrestricted markets in western Europe, while their share in the five restricted markets of France, market should reach 19.5m Italy, Spain the UK and PortuVOLKSWAGEN, Germany's car mannfacturer, yesterday won approval by the regional wagen passenger cars in the second phase and employing

six thousand people, media reports said last month. Last December, Volkswagen defeated a joint hid hy France's Renault and Volvo of Sweden to hny into Czechoslo-Slovak government as partner for a Slovak car-parts manufacturing factory, the state news agency CTK reported. A contract between Volks-wagen and the Bratisiavahased BAZ factory will he signed hy the end of this month, CTK said.

The report did not say what Volkswagen's share in the vakia's Skoda antomobile

works, the largest car-maker in eastern Europe. VW is expected to invest a total of DM9hn (\$6bn) over the next four years to modernize Skoda. According to earlier reports, BAZ was preparing to sign an agreement with US General Motors to produce transmissions and assemble GM's Opel Vectra and Kadet models for sale in Czechoslo-vakia.

Bnt Volkswagen and Renanit joined the bidding for par-ticipation in the BAZ factory, with Volkswagen being favor-ite. Rarlier reports also indi-cated VW would assume BAZ's debts of 1.5bn crowns (\$55m).



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The Kia "Pride" range of

small hatchbacks - versions of which are sold under the Ford badge in North America

will compete with vehicles

ranging from Flat's Panda to Rover Group's Metro. They will be sold initially.

though a network of 100 dealers, says MCL, which is also the importer and

Polish-built FSO vehicles in

the UK. Eventually, around 150 dealers are expected to be

establish a presence in the UK.

following Hyundai, which has

been present for nearly a decade. Last year, Hyundai's UK sales reached hist over

Strike threatens

nuclear ships

Ships carrying nuclear waste

between Japan, Italy and the UK could be prevented from sailing if strike action by

merchant navy officers go

Numest has warned.
Six ships owned by Pacific

Nuclear Transport, in which

British Nuclear Fuels has a majority shareholding, could be affected by possible action

over a pay claim. About 100 Numast members on the ships

Kia will be the second

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changed its name to Equitar Europe in a move aimed at expanding its European operations. The company's three divisions, which provide direct marketing, credit reference information, and computerised credit scoring, are also being renamed with the Equifax

Business travel starts to pick up British Airways has resumed

Europe brand name.

its twice-weekly Concorde flights to Washington, axed at the start of the Gulf war because of the steep fall in top executives flying on business. The move reflects the

gradual improvement in business confidence in recen weeks, which has accelerated following the and of hostilities. But husiness travel agents

say the upturn in executive travel bookings is far less pronounced than the revival in demand for overseas package holidays experienced by holiday travel agents. On Saturday, many travel agents reported their best day

of the year so far for package holiday bookings.



Rolls-Royce Motor Cars staged a surprise introduction in Geneva of its Bentley Continental R coupe (above), the first uniquely styled Bentley to be launched since 1952. The coupe will also be the most expensive Rolls-Royce production car, with an indicative UK price of £160,000 compared with the £144,595 Rolls-Royce Corniche convertible, and the £91,175 Rolls-Royce Sliver Spirit. It was believed the car would not be ready for production until later in the 1990s, but Rolls-Royce completed the development programme much earlier than expected. the development programme much earlier than expected.

UK NEWS

Power generators share offer | Nissan UK associate | Recession sparks big private demand

THE OFFER of ahares in the two privatised electricity generators looks assured of sucess when it closes this morning after sparking powerful

demand from private investors. The public is almost certain to bave asked for enough shares to trigger clawhack arrangements, where stock is taken away from overseas and institutional huyers and reallocated to private investors.

By lunchtime yesterday, more than 600,000 applications for shares in National Power and PowerGen had been counted. A further flurry of forms was anticipated ahead of this morning's 10am deadline. However, very beavy overauhscription would cause embarrassment to Mr John Wakeham, energy secretary. When pricing the shares at the end of last month, he was striving to avoid the accusations of underpricing that followed last November's aale of the regional electricity companies.

Initially, the government set aside for the public about £600m worth of the £2.16bn sale - which comprises 60 per cent of the shares in the two generators. But the public will buy slightly more than £1bn worth, or 49 per cent of the offer, assuming a clawback. If that happens, institutions

to triggering clawback, set to occur when the £600m offer is 2.5 times over-subscribed.

The stockmarket bas risen susbstantially since the share price was announced. Dealings start on Tuesday. I G Index, financial hookmakers operat-ing a form of advanced market,

will also be asked to take part

in a tender. A portion of the

shares set aside for them,

amounting to 16 per cent of the total offer, will be resold to the

highest hidders at levels above

the fixed 175p offer price.
It looked as if the public was

already 70 per cent of the way

were quoting 126p for Power-Gen shares and 120p for National Power. at home and overseas which have underwritten the offer N Ireland jobless 'will increase by 3,000'

By Our Belfast Correspondent

Northern Ireland will rise by 3,000 by mid-June, though the province may be the UK's best performing region this year according to a economic fore-cast published yesterday. The projections, by Dr Stephen Roper and Dr Graham

Gudgin, of the Northern

Ireland Economic Research

Centre, suggest that the prov-ince will be cushioned from the

worst of the national recession in 1991 because it has a large mortgages are smaller than in the rest of the UK.

According to the centre, an independent research body whose forecasts are linked to the Cambridge Econometrics model of the UK economy, these factors will allow some new jobs to be created in the province's service sector this

year, unlike the rest of the UK where such service sector employment is expected to fall.

Manufacturing employment in Northern Ireland is projected to contract by around

3,000 during 1991 as the effect of falling UK demand spreads in the province. The forecast suggests that unemployment in June will rise to 103,000 (14.7 per cent) and by another 4,000 by the middle of next year.

may sell rival cars

By John Griffiths

AFG, the network of nearly 180 car dealers controlled by Nissan UK chairman Mr Octav Botnar, is expected to start taking on manufacturer fran-chises other than Nissan

within the next few days.

A deal under which several of the AFG outlets will switch to selling French cars, is understood to be imminent.

Deals with Fiat of Italy and German and Scandinavian

manufacturers are also under-stood to be under discussion. The move by AFG Holdings which is an associate company of Nissan UK, reflects a desire both to make better use of some of its under-utilised dealerships and to start spreading a "safety net" under AFC should its supplies of Nissan cars be cut off at the end of this year.

After a series of disputes – most recently, over the prices the Japanese car maker bas been charging Mr Botnar's company for its new cars Nissan has declared that it will sever all ties with Nissan UK on December 31 this year, and set up its own UK diatribution and sales organisation. Nissan UK is fighting the ter-mination in the courts, arguing

that it is invalid. Should the British company lose, however, AFG Holdings could be plunged into crisis by



Octav Botnar: sounding out

having nothing to sell.

The allocation this year of possibly 20 or more of the AFG network to selling makes other than Nissan, is understood to be the real explanation behind motor trade rumours that Fiat, struggling to improve a market share of around 2 per cent in the UK, might be preparing to pass on to Mr Botnar the distrihution of Fiat and Lancia cars. AFG, of which Mr Botnar is chairman, is a highly profit-able operation, reporting pre-tax profits of £74.51m in the financial year ending July 31

1990, up 17 per cent on the pre-vious year's £65.89m.



squeezes liquidity By Rachel Johnson, **Economics Staff** THE liquidity of Britain's large industrial and commarcial

companies – particularly in manufacturing – is heing squeezed down by the reces-sion, figures showed yesterday. The Central Statistical Office

reported that the seasonallyadjusted liquidity ratio of large UK companies in the fourth quarter of last year fell to 60 per cent. This compared with 61 per cent in the previous

quarter. Based on a survey of about 300 businesses comprising just under half the total of large induatrial and commercial ures give an indication of how the corporate sector is reacting

to high interest rates.

The latest ratio, which measures total financial assets that are realisable in less than one year as a percentage of finan-cial liabilities that may have to be repaid in one year, was well below the recent high of 116 per cent at the end of 1987.

In manufacturing, liquidity is dropping even faster under the pressure of high interest rates and the business down

The liquidity ratio was 36 per cent, after 38 per cent a quarter earlier and 50 per cent at the end of 1989.

BRITAIN IN

British Gas signs three large orders

British Gas signed multi-million pound contracts to supply gas to three power station projects last week, shortly before it choked off demand from the electricity industry by sharply increasing

prices.
The three deals were signed with National Power,
Yorkshire Electricity and
British Nuclear Fuels in a
hectic scramble, after British
Gas had contacted companies involved in several power station projects to tell them informally of its plans to raise

British Gas increased prices for gas supplied to new power station projects by 35 per cent from last Saturday. The rise was prompted by the companys's fears that spiralling demand for gas from the electricity industry could threaten supplies to its traditional customers.

House prices

continue to fall

UK house prices in February fell for the fifth month running, according to Halifax, Britain's higgest huilding

The society, which publishes a monthly house price index. said further interest rate cuts were needed to restore . buoyancy to the weak housing "Wa may be at the end of the downturn but there is no sign of any recovery yet. We have no evidence of any pick up in the number of house sales across the country." Halifax said

Lamont urged

Conservative MPs are pressing Mr Norman Lawont, the chancellor of the exchequer,

on tax cuts

to concentrate tax conce in his forthcoming hudget on low earners and small

businesses. They also want

further measures to promote

are being balloted on the Labour pledge on TV licences

Hotels and other commercia ventures might have to pay



Roy Hattersley: wants cheaper TV for pensionersgovernment to help fund cheaper licence fees for

pensioners. Mr Roy Hattersley, deputy leader of the opposition Labour party, said Labour was determined to "assuage the effect (of the licence fee) on the most needy pensioners.

The aim would be to raise money from internal BBC savings and from commercial .

and industrial concerns such

payments from the Treasury.

Wescot aims

cot Decision System, on

as hotels to avoid extra.

for Europe

of the UK's main reference agencies and consumer information groups, has

the government's "green image" and to encourage



Norman Lamont: no spec-tacular tax cuts expected MPs and Treasury ministers over the past few weeks, most

of government supporters expect a relatively unexciting package on March 19.

Despite speculation about a June election, the message from ministers has been that the need to hring down inflation and interest rates must take priority over tax cuts. Tory MPs expect the budget to include net tax cuts

Kia cars to be sold in the UK

of, at most, £1hn.

Korean-built Kia cars are to be sold in the UK in June with

hoped-for sales of 10,000 units by the end of 1992, according to MCL Group, the newly appointed importer.

First Bentley launched since 1952



Rolls-Royce Motor Cars staged a surprise introduction in Geneva

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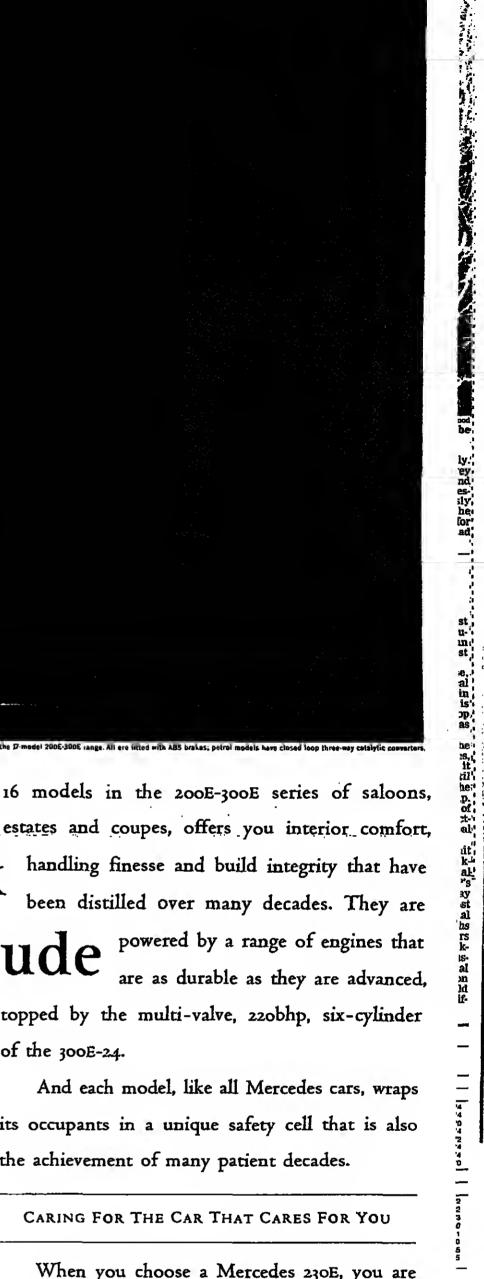
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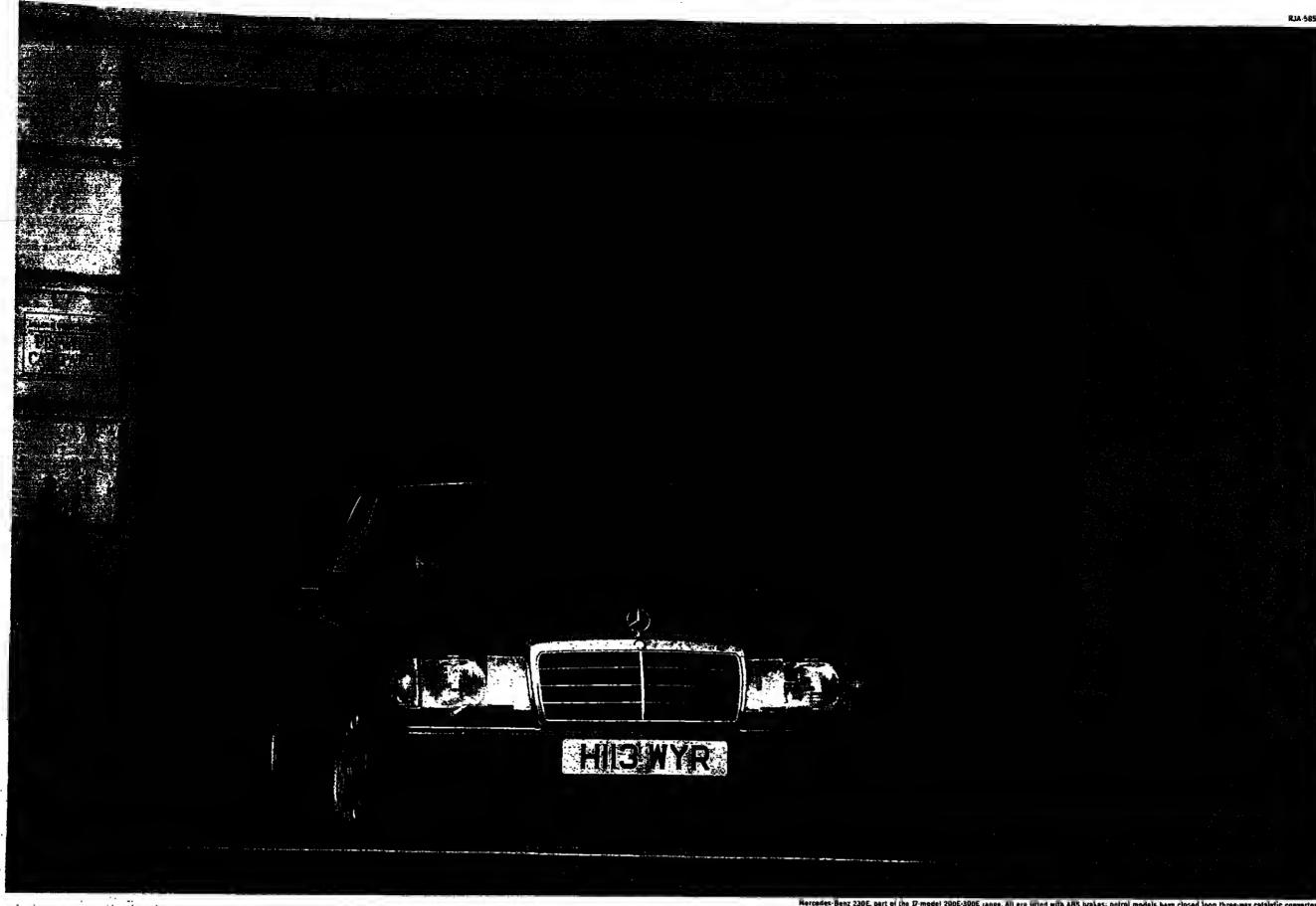
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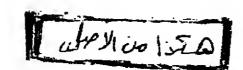
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320 to 32 to

sell-off draws big foreign interest

STRONG FOREIGN interest has emerged in the government's proposed sale of the ahort term commercial risk insurance busioess of the Export Credits Gnarantee

The shortlist of six bidders who will be invited to tender includes Assicurazioni Generali of Italy and Cobac, the specialised Belgian credit insurance company, as well as NCM, the Dutch credit insurance business which has previously made its interest while made its interest public.

The specialist credit insurance unit of Germany's Gerling also appears on the list as a minority partner in a consortium with Eagle Star.

The other two bid-ders - Trade Indemnity which dominates the domestic credit insurance market and Sun Alliannounced their intention to enter the fray. The privatisa-tion is intended to allow the short term insurance division to compete freely for business after the European insurance market is liberalised as part of

the single market programme. The inclusion of several foreign namee prompted fresh expressions of concern from exporters. Mr John Hollows, Deputy Chairman of the British Exporters' Association, said: "The fear of our members

is that a non-UK purchaser would not have the UK interest at heart as much as a UK cor-

Other exporters said they would be seeking assurances from the foreign bidders that their interests would be respected by a foreign owner. They said they were heartened by the presence of Sun Alli-ance and Eagle Star on the list as UK bidders establishing a counterweight to Trade Indemnity, which already dominates the domestic credit insurance

Announcing the ehortlist yesterday, Mr Peter Lilley, Trade and Industry Secretary. aid the bidders had all stated their willingness to purchase 100 per cent of the short-term business. But two of the com-panies, Sun Alliance and Eagle Star, said they would wait until they had scrutinised financial information on ECGD before deciding whether to go ahead with a bid.

ECGD's ehort term insur-ance division covers exports worth some £13bn a year. It made a loss of £190m in the financial year to April 1990 on premium income of £74m, but the loss related to loss provisions against business with indebted countries such as Nigeria, which is excluded from the sale.

Soviet cover under review

By Peter Montagnon

THE Export Credits Guarantee Department has placed the pro-vision of medium-term credit cover for the Soviet Union under review following the deterioration in the economic

The development has caused further anxieties among exporters who are concerned about the Treasury's growing imposition of restrictions on ECGO's activity, particularly in markets where it is already heavily exposed. These include China, Hong Kong, South Africa, Indonesia and India, as well as the Soviet Union.

Exporters to Indonesia have complained to the Department of Trade and Industry that orders are being delayed by lack of ECGD cover, even though they are due to be financed by existing UK soft credit lines. Bankers say the General Electric Company has recently had to extend the validity of a £30m Indonesian tender for two months.

ECGD said yesterday it was too early to prejudge the out-come of its review of the Soviet Union. Payment arrears last year led it to insist on a count-er-guarantee from the Soviet Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs, which has itself become very cautious about taking on new exposure.

Exports insurance | Businesses to face pollution levies

By David Thomas, Resourcea Editor

BUSINESS premises which pollute Britain's waterways are to be charged up to £85,000 a year to pay for the cost of poli-cing their activities, under proposals announced yesterday by the National Rivers Authority.

The charges are an unprecedented attempt in Britain to make industry pay for the costs of anti-pollution activities. in the past, such activities have had to be met out of general taxation.

erai taxation.
"Our costs should be met not
by the general taxpayer, but by
the people doing the poilnting." said Mr Chris Savory, finance director of the authority, which monitors water quality.

The charges will raise £41m a year from businesses holding 80,000 official consects to pollute the waterways of England

Similar proposals are being prepared for Scotland. Mr Savory estimated that 60 per cent of the projected cost will fall on the privatised water companies with 30 per cent being borne by other industrial and commercial

companiee. Agriculture is expected to pay the remaining 10 per cent.
A formula will be used to calculate the annual charge to businesses depending on the volume of material discharged, its nature and location.

For example, pesticide dis-charges will be given three look at their polluting activitimes the weighting of metals, while discharges into river estuaries will be weighted 50 per cent more than those into

The NRA says the charges are intended solely to meet its pollution monitoring costs. The system of consents, not the charges, are intended to minimise pollution. That is why the authority

does not view the proposed new charges as a full-scale pol-

However, the authority's officials acknowledge that the new charges could prompt some husinesses to take a fresh

The NRA has calculated that the biggest annual charge is likely to be about £85,000 for a large discharge of pesticide into a river estuary.

The lowest charge is expec-ted to be about £16 for small discharges of non-toxic liquids. Comments on the proposals have to be sent to the Department of the Environment by

April 30. The scheme is due to start operating on July 1.
Charges in Respect of Discharges to Controlled Waters.
NRA, PO Box 1461, Sapphire
East, Streetsbrook Road, Solihull, West Midlands B91 1QT.

IT companies show trend towards rationalisation

By Alan Cane

technology businesses increased by 16 per cent to 283 in 1990, according to Regent Associates, which collates data on IT mergers and acquisi-

The data show an incres rationalisation in the UK information technology business as large organisations seek to divest themselves of subsidiaries that are underperforming or ontside their parent's core activities.

Regent predicts that the trend will continue this year.

Mr Peter Rowell, the managing director of Regent, said:
"There will be many bargains tions in the dign buyers particular opportunity market.

The value companies fellows in the dign buyers particular opportunity market.

The value companies fellows in the dign buyers particular opportunity market.

The value companies fellows in the dign buyers particular opportunity market.

ACQUISITIONS of information available for companies with

Anery a

strong cash resources and for foreign organisations that are wishing to acquire a base in the UK.

Acquisitions by foreign com-

Acquisitions by foreign com-panies in the UK market also showed an increase in 1990. Some of these were strategic but in others, the lower valua-tions in the UK presented for-eign buyers – the French in particular – with an ideal opportunity to move into the

market.
The value of UK hardware companies fell by an average of 38 per cent in 1990 and 33 per cent for computing services

Power struggle behind the UK telecoms duopoly

Charles Leadbeater on government efforts to encourage more competition in the communications industry

he policy document on telecommunications policy poblished yesterday is the product of a power struggle over the future of the industry which has been going

on for the past five months.

The main contestants in that struggle were Mr Peter Lilley, the trade and industry secretary, Sir Bryan Carsberg, the director general of Oftel, the industry regulator, and Mr Iain Vallance, chairman of British

Telecom At stake was the shape of the telecommunications market, which last year was worth more than £13bn and, in particular, the position of BT, which dominates that market with a

ehare of about 95 per cent. The struggle for power and profits in the industry was set off in November, when the gov-ernment published a far-reaching review of the market. It set out options for encouraging the duopoly of MT and Mer-cury Communications, its much emaller competitor, which controls the provision of fixed link telecommunications

services to the public. The review clearly identified BT's overhwhelming dominance of the market as the main distortion which needed to be corrected to allow more competition. The proposals alarmed BT which foresaw the government and Oftel giving new competitors a large help-ing hand to eat into the com-

pany's market share.
Since November Mr Vallance
has been leading a spirited
rearguard action which culminated in a threat that the comto be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission if

it judged they were unfair.
That threat played upon two dilemmas facing the govern-ment. First, for all its enthusiasm in promoting competition, the government remains BTe largest shareholder with a 49 per cent etake. An MMC inquiry would have forced plans to sell the stake to be

delayed. Second, BT is so dominant that plans to reform the industry would be much harder to implement if it refused to co-operate. The threet of an MMC reference seems to have done the trick. It led to negotiations between BT, the DTI and Oftel, which produced a deal. Put simply, BT has been able to exact a price for co-op-erating with plans to introduce competition.

The terms of that deal are

buried in the document's fine print. But its outline is suggested by comments made by Sir Bryan in an appendix. He says the White Paper marks a shift in government policy, away from the "man-aged competition" of the past eeven years in which Oftel gave new entrants a hefty helping hand, towards a more open

form of competition. Sir Bryan



Peter Lilley (right) and Bryan Carsberg: main contestantsin the power struggle over future of telecommunications says: "There is a danger that the assistance of new entrants

can be carried too far."
He continues: "I want to see competition pressed to the limit of its ability to improve value for money to the customer - but no further. The way to achieve that is for the regulations to encourage more competition, to offer firm assurance that fair competition will be protected, but to insist thet additional competitors must make their way without having the playing field tilted

The White Paper's starting

point is that the dnopoly should be ended by allowing new entrants to apply for

However, this general prescription in favour of competi-tion has qualifications. It is unlikely new licences will be granted for international oper-ators. This is mainly because the slower pace of liberalisa-tion in foreign markets would make it difficult for new UK operators to find partners abroad. The document also notes the arguments of BT and Mercury that in the long term they depend on profits from The cable television opera-

international calls to finance investment in the UK. The limit on international competition is a success for BT-In the domestic market com-

petition will be enhanced on several fronts. Large international compa-nies will be the main beneficiaries of a complete liberalisation on the self provision of private internal networks. This means BT and Mercury will have to compete more fiercely with their own customers in provid-

ing private circuits.
Competition in the local network will be encouraged by moves to allow cable television companies, many of which are owned by US telecommunications groups, to carry tele-phone services as well as television. Adjacent cable franchises will be able to link

their networks together.
The cable television operators will be protected from competition from BT and Mercury for 10 years, although this restriction on the duopolists' entering the market for conveying television aervices might be reviewed after seven years. The cable television industry has argued that this protection is essential to

Another source of local competition should come from mobile telecommunications networks, such as cellular, telepoint and personal commu-

tors fear that consumers will get the fruits of competition by equal access to competing long distance carriers. As a result, they may be happy to rely upon BT's local network, as long as it gives them access to a choice of long distance providers. They argue this could entrench BT at a local level. The government says this fear is overstated.

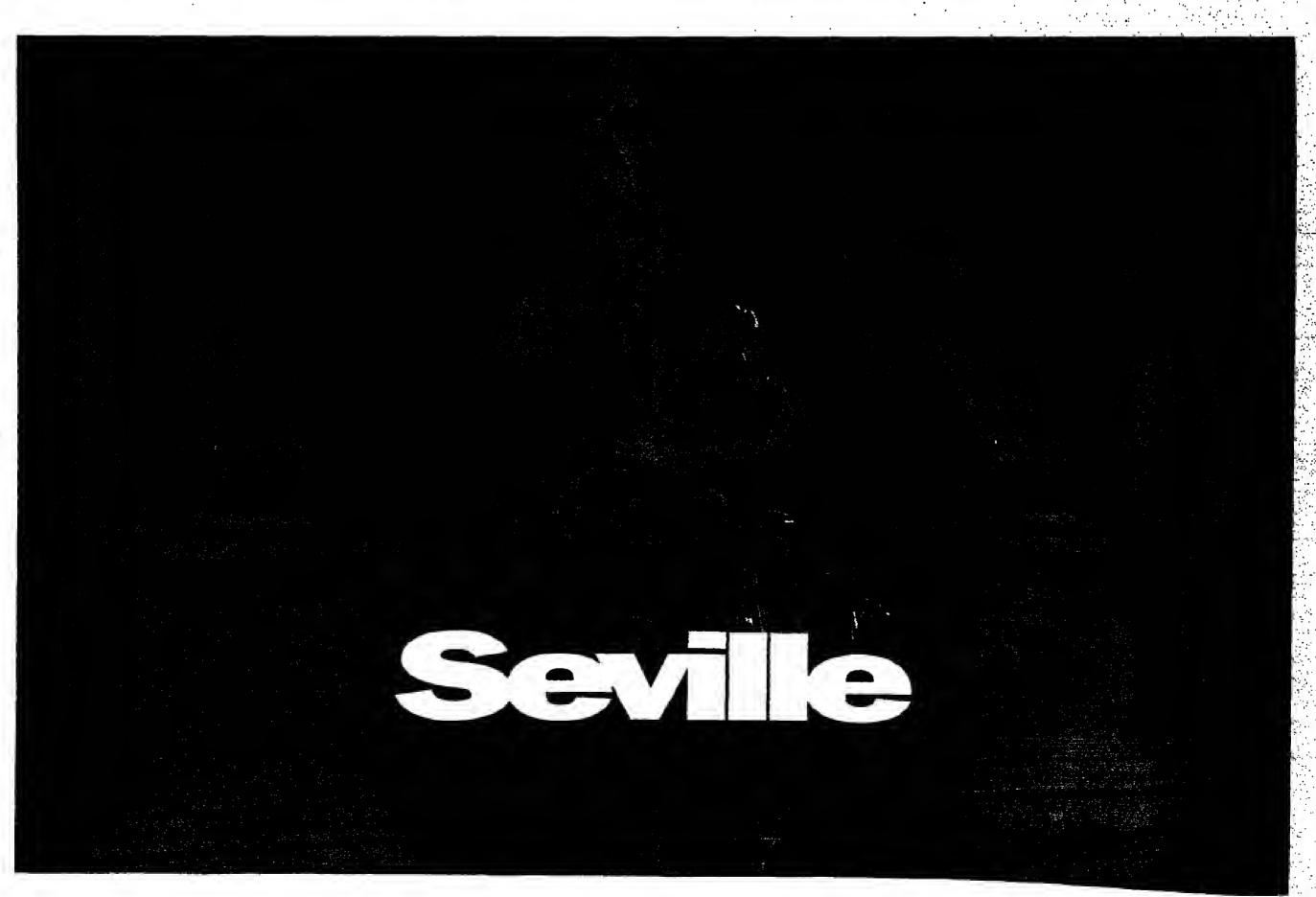
Yet for two reasons the threat is neither as immediate nor as great as it might seem.

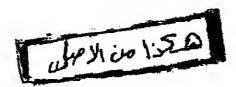
First, equal access will take time to introduce. Less than half BT's customers are serviced by switches which could readily provide equal access. The investment to provide equal access will take time. Full-blown equal access will only be introduced after a lengthy cost benefit analysis by Offel.

Second, the main part of the price which BT has extracted for its co-operation has been an agreement to review its tariffs. This marks its most significant victory yet over Oftel.

At the end of the day none of the contestants will be unhappy. Oftel's role will expand. The government will get more competition without devaluing its shareholding in BT. The company recognised that competition was coming, will be nowhere near as handicapped as it once feared to

17





-operation has been

Employers are introducing special measures to contain the problem. Angus Foster reports

Hong Kong tries to plug its brain drain

hat price free-dom? That may be the question some Hong Kong com-panies are asking as they offer their managers "longsvity

In return for staying in Hong Kong rather than emigrating, key executives are heing tempted hy honus schemes which mature after Hong Kong returns to China in 1997. The bonus usually consists of two to four months' salary for each year remaining. For some, the pay-out could top HK31m.

These schemes are now common in Hong Kong. The bonuses are the latest weapon in the fight against Hong Kong's "hrain drain", a con-tinuing flow of well educated professional Hong Kong ethnic Chinese leaving in search of a foreign passport. With Hong Kong's future weentelly Kong'e future uncertain. human resource management is, if not the most, one of the most pressing challenges for Hong Kong companies.

But it is not a crisis. Since the late 1980s when companies first realised the brain drain was worsaning, they have learned to introduce new recruitment, training and promotion policies.

ssing the brain drain is not an exact science. According to the Hong Kong government, which can only rely on indirect Indicators, 62,000 people left the colony last year and e eimilar number ere expected to leave this year. That figure seems small

compared with Hong Kong's population of over 5.5 million. The problem is that most of the emigrants are well edu-cated, in their mid-30s and come from the professional and managerial class

According to a study hy the Chinese University of Hong Kong, based on data for 1987 and 1988, perhaps 60 per cent of daparting families fitted this description. The same study suggests that by 1989 3.6 per cent of Hong Kong's total pool of professionals, administrators and managers had been

Companies' experience of emigration depends on their

type of husiness, how they are fighting emigration and, some-times, a "sheep" mentality among employees.

Hong Kong Bank has over 1,000 managers among its 13,000 staff. Last year 94 man-agers emigrated, sharply up from 1988 and 1989 when tha total was in the mid-50s. Jar-dine Matheson, Hong Kong's largest employer after the gov-ernment, is losing n steady 5 per cent of its 1,000 managers to emigration each year according to Martin Barrow, a

Emigration is seriously

EMIGR/	NTS FROM
Year	Number
1980	22,400
1981	18,300
1982	20,300
1983	18.800
1984	22,400
1985	22,300
1986	19.000
1987	30,000
1988	45.800
1989	42,000
1990	62.000°
1991	58.000t

depleting Hong Kong's pool of experience. And there is a wider perspective to the problem. If a husband leaves with his working wife, two vacan-cies are likely to arise. Or, if he moves job for a large sign-on bonus and two years' higher salary to huild up a nest-egg before emigrating, he is likely to be replaced by someone else doing the same thing. At Citibank, the largest US

company in the colony, emigration is about 5-8 per cent. according to Steven Baker, division head for North Asia. But the total nttrition rate among its 1,000 executives is 21 per cent, down from a peak of 29 per cent in 1987.

Fred Lam, general manager for corporate relations at Hongkong Telephone, says the loss of experienced managers is In order to attract experi-

enced staff, employers have

increased sign-on bonuses and

annual salary packages. Nicholas Chiu, employee relations manager at Esso (HK), says the company recently recruited two middle mansgers who earned HK\$14,000 e month at their previous job. To persuade them to move, they were given

a 40 per cent pay rise. Emigration has forced companies to rethink their attitudes to training, often for the better. Brian Renwick, senior manager for personnel, Hong Kong Bank, says training pro-grammes have been shortened and opportunities for promotion improved. "There are opportunities to do things better. Our training is now faster. which it should have been, and lt would have taken longer to speed it up without the brain

drain," he says.

To cope with emigration, companies have a choice companies have a choice between fighting to retain their staff or adopting new strate-gles. Simply offering more money may not work. Among accountants, salaries rose by more than 25 per cent each year in 1988 and 1989. But accountancy firms continue to accountancy firms continue to be among the hardest hit. Some personnel managers believe that no amount of

believe that no amount of money, training or promotion can buy staff loyalty. According to Lam: "There is nothing you can do to stop people leaving. There is nothing you can offer in return for a passport except for e passport itself."

Small and even medium-sized companies rarely have sized companies rarely have overseas offices where they

can send staff to acquire for-eign passports. For these com-panies, the brain drain can he devastating. A emali Hong Kong software company closed down last month after its two senior programmers decided to emigrate at the same time, according to KS Liu, its former managing director. "I could have started again, but the same thing would have hap-

pened," he says. Companies which do have overseas offices are using them to help staff secure passports hnt the numbers are small. Despite Its large North American network, Hong Kong Bank can only send four or five high



Hong Kong's key executives are being tempted with bonuses which mature after the colony returns to Chine in 1997

flyers overseas each year. Citibank has been ectively using its overseas network, according to Baker. "Virtually all our top performers who wanted to leave have been placed (overseas)." he says. A separate scheme for the bank's top 40 Hong Kong officers gives them emigration assistance if they stay in Hong Kong longer then planned. "This also allows us to have our senior

local role modele stay in place," Baker says.
Schemes now being put in place by the UK, US and other European countries offer passports or entry visas which need not be taken up immediately, even until after 1997. Employees of British companies are being targeted under the British Nationality Package, which gives passports to 50,000 heads of households. The US changed its immigration rules last year to grant entry visas to 10,000 employees of US companies in Hong Kong, 5,000 have already applied.
But the schemes are not per-

fect, either offering too few passports or too little security.
As a result, companies still
need to find new sources of
talent to cope with departures,
Companies like Hongkong Telephone and Hong Kong Bank, which prefer to recruit from within, hove increased

their graduate intakes. Hong Kong Bank has doubled the

number of graduates it recruits

each year into its hanking

The strategy ties in with the government's policy to double the annual number of graduates to 15,000 hy 1994/1995 Although this will keep graduate salaries stable, there are concerns that the government is sacrificing quality for quan-

Among the emigrants who have "sung the song", the Can-tonese phrase for gaining a for-eign passport, few seem to be coming hack to Hong Kong. The government puts the fig-ure at 10 per cent, although private studies suggest that is

too high. Nevertheless, companies like Citibank and Jardine Matheson have increased their overseas recruitment campaigns, de the costs. Citihank has lifted the percentage of its overseas hirings to 75 per cent from 25 per cent a few years ago hy mainly targeting Asian graduates wanting to come back. As a result, about 20 per cent of

the bank's executives now hold foreign passports, possibly the highest figure for a major company in Hong Kong.

But for some, especially smaller, companies these strategies are too costly. As a result, they have stopped training altogether and are now relying on an ever increasing number of headhunters in Hong Kong to find people to fill

James Watson tells David Owen what course he will chart for the employee-controlled NFC

A feeling of ownership

On January 1, James Wat-son replaced Sir Peter Thompson as chairman of NFC, the transportation, travel and property group privatised through n novel employee hny-ont in 1982. With ecomie conditions deteriorating and 45-50 per cent of the Bedford-based company's shares now in institutional hands, is a major overhaul of the singu-lar NFC management culture

No, is the too short answer as anyone who has charted Watson's progress might have expected. The hlack-hrowed accountant has been with NFC throughout its private sector existence, serving in turn as existence, serving in turn as finance director and deputy chairman before assuming his current duties. "I have lived with the privatised NFC for eight years," he says. "Obviously one of my core values is employee ahare ownership."

But if continuity is the hallmark of the change-over, the new man will not be slavishly enacting the Thompson doctrine in every detail. In his

enerting the incomposition to the trine in every detail. In his unhurried way, he is perhaps more insistent than his predecessor that premium perfor-

able goal of the group.

And those nware of Sir
Peter's conviction that "almost the only way you can get out of a husiness is for the people to say: 'We want to go'," will detect e pronounced difference in Watson's more pro-active attitude towards atrophying

"I think there is nothing worse than retaining n busi-ness that the board and management do not think fits stra-tegically and do not want to put money into or develop," he says. "And I don't think that is a decision that employees can really make. If you cannot support a situation and give support a situation and give opportunity to people in the husiness, then you have got to be absointely frank and say 'This is how we feel strategically; we hope we will find someone who does have the strategic ability to provide that opportunity."

There is more common

There is more common ground in the two men's thinking on acquisitions. Wat-

The flagebly of son concurs with Sir Peter it runs to ensure that surplus employee control in that a company with NFC's staff are nware of vacancies share ownership structure "cannot be making mega take-

overs and splashing equity all over the place".

Such is the strength of NFC's cashflow, however, that Wntson says he is "not actu-ally finding that a limiting factor. We are talking about spending up to £150m-£160m a year," he adds. The group ended its last financial year described by chief executive Jack Mather as "our busiest year for acquisitions" - comfortably geared at 24 per cent with debt of £78.1m.

Watson also supports the group's attachment of double voting rights to employee-owned shares on certain toples, such that n prospective buyer of NFC would effectively have to convince employees of the soundness of its aims.

Bigger say than other investors

"The double vote is there because we helieve that cmployees in n husiness should have a higger say than other investors in the ultimate decision of who should own the business," he says. "You do get takeovers that are not always in the best interests of the company..and employees will he just as discerning as anybody else if a company is performing badly or is badly led."

Watson denies that NFC's watson denies that NFC's commitment to maintaining its employee-oriented culture might be wavering under preseure from the deteriorating economy or institutional shareholders. "I am not conscious that we have made any decidant was a state of the state decision purely for institu-tional purposes," he saya.
"Whatever action we need to take in the business to make sure we achieve our longer term objectives we will take. I don't see that as any different from any other company - except that we might take slightly longer to make deci-sions about dealing with difficult problems."

There is no doubt that NFC adopts a kindler, gentler approach to employee relations than many of its peers. One example of this is the internal relocation agency that

throughout the organisation. But Watson argues that this works to the company's benefit as much as the employees'. "We don't like spending money on redundancy pay-

ments," he says.

Similarly, Watson feels strongly that the inculcation of a feeling of ownership at every level of the group (90-95 per cent of employees are shareholders) pays very tangi-ble dividends in terms of com-

mitment and customer service. "If you go back ten years, the driver had a pork-pie hat and a cigarette hanging out of his month and wore greasy overalls," he recalls. "Now, they are all liveried and it is difficult to tell them apart from a manager.

"The transport husiness today is all about quality; it is about having a relationship with your customer right down the pitch. Employee share ownership is an absointe ace card in that situation." As the group becomes more international in line with its aim of generating 40 per cent of profits outside the UK hy 1995, it is encountering the problem of how to give its overseas employees access to the same share ownership

tic counterparts.

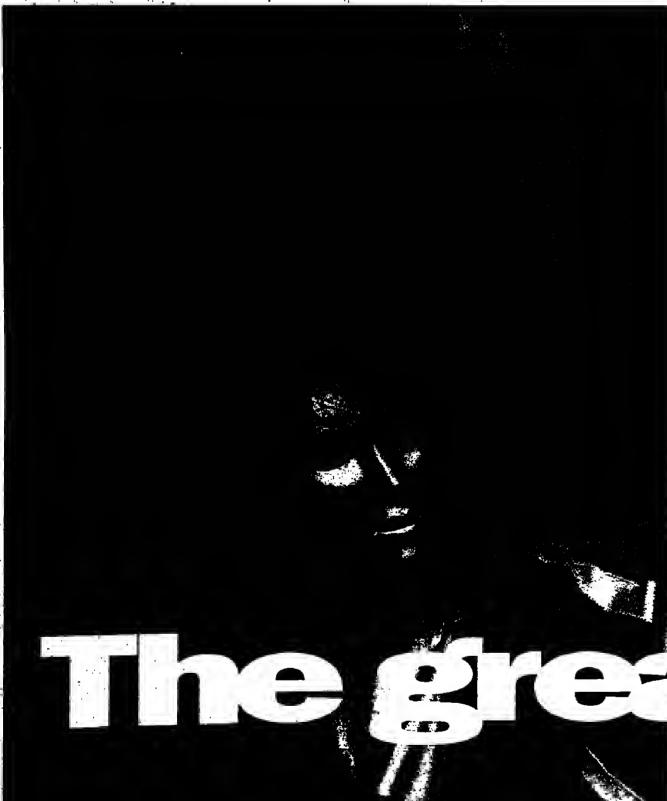
It began to address this last year with the launch of an American Depositary Receipt American Depositary Receipt programme in the US. A US Employee Share Ownership Plan that Wntson says will "pass on as much tax benefit as we can to the US employees" is to be introduced in a counte of worther time.

opportunities as their domes-

couple of months' time.

These efforts are now likely to switch to Europe. "Whether we have 500 or 5,000 employees in, say, Spain, we have to give them the benefits of an NFC shareholding in their own legislative and financial envi-ronment."

In terms of adapting the group's existing share-saving and profit-sharing packages, Watson's principal thrust will be to ensure that there is as direct a link as possible between benefits and measur-able performance. "I think we need to make sure that what weight right down on the shop-floor," he says.



Oan apactacular show after another. night. 104 pavilinna. The vary beat of Naw York, Parla, Lima, Roma, Calro, London, Bangkok and Tokyo. Parks, rivera, grnvas, lakas, tras-lined avanuas. The mastery of Mickeelaagein, Plácido Daminga, Caparaicas and Charle Chaplin. Son, aand, fantaatic panpia. Enchanting acannry ... And all in nna placa. Savilla,

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BUSINESS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Nerc's budget shrinks

for businesses. But companies now find that efficient distribo-

tion systems deliver an added

beoefit by reducing their

impact on the environment.
"In the past companies

which have boasted about eovironmental beoefits from

improved distribution systems

have made the changes for cost reasons. But now the environ-

meot is increasingly being included as a criterion when improvements are made to

transport systems," says David Smith, head of environment

eervices at PA Coosulting Group.
This change is reflected by a

new environmental research project initiated by the Insti-

tute of Logistics and Distribu-

tioo Management in Corhy.

Northamptonshire. A team of

experts will examine the impact of logistics practice on

the environment. A handbook, to be produced by the institute,

will give advice on how opera-tors can green their operations.

could learn from the experi-ence of Tesco, the 380-store UK

supermarket chain. It has reaped hoth cost and environ-

mental benefits from its deci-

sion to develop what It calls s

While the company has been criticised for developing new

stores on greenfield sites out-side towns - which encour-

ages customers to drive longer dietances – it is generally applauded for taking environ-

It has a team of 300 people

working on the greening of its organisation. This affecte

nearly every aspect of the busi-ness, from providing "stress-free" eteak to using recycled

Tesco's composite distribu-tion eystem has reduced the oumber of vehicles needed to

re-supply a store from e mini

mum of five a day to one. The

new system has also cut the

number of distribution centres from 41 to 18.

being able to store different

types of products - fresh, fro-

zen, tinned, for example – on one site. Then, by dividing the delivery lorries into three tem-

perature-controlled compart-ments, many of the goods needed by e store are delivered

Stores are re-supplied in

waves" and have many deliv-

eries a day, but the overall number has been reduced by 80

per cent. Sainsbury's, one of Tesco's

on a single load.

mental issues seriously.

paper in the till roll.

composite distribution system

The institute's researchers

he Natural Environment Research Council (Nerc), which published lts 1991 corporate plan this week*, expects its research budget to shrink in real terms by 10 per cent over the next five years, in spite of the importance the government claims to accord its research.
It can manage without big

economies this year but must find extra cash if it is to sustain some of the medium-term objectives of its corporate plan, says John Knill, chair-

Knill sees the 1990s as "a decade of challenge for the environmental sciences" and his research council as the "lead UK agency for research, survey and training in the nat-ural environmental sciences". its hudget from government for 1991-92 is £123m.

Internationally, Nerc-sup-ported scientists have played a leading role in the assessment of climate change sponsored by the World Meteorological Organisation and the UN Environment Programme, he says. One new programme to which Nerc gives high priority

is the EC's terrestrial initia-tive in global environmental research, which aims to shed more light on possible man-made changes to the world's climate. Nerc will carry out studies of ocean circulation and computer model-ling of the global atmosphere. It is also planning research

of more local or regional interest, such as studies of pollution pathways from land to water and their implications for ground water purity. It has failed to win more funds for its Antosub scheme of developing autonomous submersibles for ocean surveillance. But it intends to continue its present level of development for these unmanned, pre-programmed ocean sensor st

In space research, Nerc plans to make speedy use of data from the new European earth satellite ERS-1.

David Fishlock

*Corporate Plan of the Natural Environment Research Council. Available from Nerc, Polaris House, North Stor Avenue, Swindon SN2 1EU.

Peter Knight explains how an efficient distribution he logistics of dietributing goods system saves energy and reduces product wastage always has been an important cost centre

A green machine delivers the goods

Composite distribution Nominal temp Tolerance **Products** -20 Degrees C ±2 Degrees C All trozen foods resh meet, fish, poultry, +2 Degrees C Cold chill O Degrees C +5 Degrees C ±2 Degrees C Provisions & most produce ±2 Degrees C +10 Degrees C 6 Degrees C min Grocery and non-food

competitors, ptoneered the composite distribution centre in the UK. But the sbility to use a single lorry, rather than a succession with trailers at different temperatures, was delayed until the necessary

gy was developed. The trailer-makers said it could not be done," says Paul Bateman, Tesco's distribution director. "But we and the National Freight Corporation out un some development money and worked closely with two trailer manufacturers to develop the right product." A trailer with three movable

hulkheads and separate cooling systems was perfected in the late 1980s. The temperature in each compartment can be controlled to within I deg C, within the necessary range of minus 20 deg C to 15 deg C. Integral to the enccess of any distribution network is its information system. "The logistics of distribution is compos of the physical flow and the information flow. The two are interdependent," says Ray Jew-itt, partner in charge of logistics at Andersen Consulting.

Bateman says Tesco's stock management system is "abso-lutely critical" to the efficiency of their system. Over the past five years hetter computer mount of stock Tesco carries. Bateman says the composite distribution provides the fol-

lowing benefits:

Daily deliveries, which help to reduce the levels of stock held at distributioo centres and the stores.

• Fresber food, which is therefore more attractive to

the customer. Computerised forecasting based on past records - which helps to reduce the amount of times e store is teft without

· Economies of scale and bet-

ter use of equipment. This reduces wastage, especially of highly perishable goods. These benefits were eufficient for Tesco's board to tustify the £170m investment it eded to develop composite

cost efficiencies also benefit the environment: "For example, we are always keen to use less fuel. This saves us money and it also reduces emissions." Tesco also insists that its truck suppliers reduce noise levels. Besides dampening

engine noise. Tesco fits brake

silencers which prevent the

Bateman believes that most

distribution

heart-thumping woosh from air-brakes on large trucks. The trucks are fitted with foils to improve their serodynamics, which cuts fuel consumption. The trailers are insulated so

that the noisy refrigeration units can be switched off when trucks unload in residential areas, often at night. The composite distributioo system reduces the number of refrigeration units needed, and therefore the amount of CFCs

used. Tesco's latest freezer can-tre uses au ammonia-based system rather than CFCs. The company has also intro-duced standardised plastic trays to hold most of the loose goods. It sells these to its sup liers and insists that all goods be packed and delivered in the trays, which last for about

three years. But Bateman is especially happy with the efficiency of a standard pscking pallet in Britain which makes unload-ing quick and easy. "There is no standard pallet board in the US. What takes us around 40 minutes to unload takes them up to eight hours," he says. Tesco's distribution centres are designed to use energy as efficiently as possible. The

company also practises what

Bateman calls "strict control over temperature regimes" and

s "low-heat policy".

This means that temperatures are kept at the optimum level to suit the products that pass through the building, rather than the people who work there. This makes working conditions in some parts of the persphenses similar to tail. ing conditions in some parts of the warehouses similar to toil-ing on the north face of the Eiger. Staff are issoed with thermal underwear and woolly hats. Deep green environmen-talists, who have long argued for the benefits of woolly jump-

ers, would be impres Tesco is, quite legitimately, using the efficiencies of its disusing the emclencies of its dis-tribotion system to bolster its green image. But Jewitt does not see companies making logistical changes purely for environmental gains. "I don't think people are going out of their way to make environmen-tal improvements" he cave tal improvements," he says.

But he does see environmental factors playing an impor-tant role in chaping logistics practices in the future. The first impact is already being felt in political pressure to improve Europe's congested transport network.

As the European trade barriers fall, the amount of crossborder traffic is expected to rise. This will increase the impact that transport has on the environment, hy producing more pollution from vehicles and greater congestion on the

Jewitt says companies are looking at the benefits of moving goods long distances by a combination of transport systems, say road and rail -known as "intermodal trans-

The efficiency of some conti-nental rail systems combined with the flexibility of road transport will produce attrac resurgence of rail transport there will be inevitable benefits for the environment from reduced exhaust emissions and less road traffic.

Work is also under way to apply rigorous logistical think-ing to packing. The efficiency of fitting as much as possible into a box. for example, saves space and packing materials. Computer software, such as a program called Pallet Manager ade by Goal of Swansea

helps in this exercise. But if European business is going to achieve greater effi-cieocies in its distribution systems it will have to agree on something that will make Jewitt and his colleagues in the logistics business truly - a standard Euro-pal

Alternative fuel in the slow lane

By Barbara Durr

or the millions of car owners who simply turn on their vehicles' engine and drive away it may be surprising how little is known about internal combustion.

Exactly what happens under the hood is the subject of a multimillion-dollar investigation by the US auto and oil industries. They are being pressed by new clean air regu-lations to come up with less eovironmentally damaging Results from the first phase

of the Aoto/Oil Air Quality Improvement Research Programme were announced by the American Petroleum Institute in Washington late last year, but were hardly definitive on how to solve the pollution problem.

The programme did reveal three important findings, how-

 Oxygenates, which help petrol burn more cleanly, reduce exhaust emissions (hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide) Changing the level of ole fins in petrol does not have great impact on emissions. Reducing aromatics and/or

the boiling range of petrol can either reduce or increase emis-sions depending on the vehicle. In short, finding clean alter-native fuels and fuel mixtures is complicated; if you resolve one prohlem you create others More exact answers will have to be found eoon, though, because the new US Clean Air Act requires that oil companies come up with a fuel that produces 15 per cent less pollution by 1995 for the country's nine most contaminated cities.

Amoco, a Chicago based oil company participating in the study along with 13 other oil companies and General Motors, Ford and Chrysler, has been testing various fuels and fuel combinations at its Naperville, Illinois test site outside

Chicago.

Al Kozinski, Amoco's vice president of research, says that compressed natural gas (CNG) has the most potential to solve the smog problems. CNG produces low hydrocarbon emissions and those that it does give off are not very reactive

It also presents an improve-ment over petrol when starting np the engine, the point at which even relatively clean cars produce most emissions because their catalytic convert-

ers need to warm up before they function properly.

CNG does produce some carbon moooxide, however, as well as nitrous oxides. Another drawback is the greater vol-ume of fuel needed to travel the same distance. In a Dodge van equipped to test CNG, for example, it took two containers of five cuhic feet each -roughly the space of two boots in a small compact car - to carry enough fuel to go about 150 miles. Impractical, Kozinski admitted, for the family car, but a possibility for com-mercial truck and van fleets.

Refuelling is tricky, too, he said. To dispense CNG a complicated, expensive compressor is needed. While fleet owners could install their own and bring the CNG costs to within about 10 cents of the US price of petrol, individual car owners, relying on commercial dispensers, would probably have to pay a premium of 50 cents or

more over petrol.
Still, CNG looks relatively economical – at about \$2 per million BTUs at the well head
- and plentiful. Amoco would be pleased to see it become the alternative fuel of choice because it holds the largest US reserves of natural gas.
While somewhat self-serving.

Amoco contends that other fuel options – methanol, etha-nol and liquified petroleum gas – have certain virtues but tend to be more expensive to produce and are less plentiful than natural gas. And, none of these is the perfect ecological

A different barrier, but one that is key to the future use of alternative fuels, is the vehicle itself. Cars that can use alternative fuels are only heing built on a test basis and Kozinski estimated that it would cost between \$1,800 and \$2,000 to convert a passenger car for

But eveo then, Amoco's researchers said, they believe that switching back to petrol once a week is better for the cars. On top of other snags, CNG or methanol mixes tended to mean more wear on cars, "It would be nice if there were some easy answers," sighs

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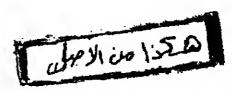
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PERSONAL



CELAND faces a genuine dilemma about its future which threatens to grow more serious over in the 1990s.It must seek to reconcile its independence as a small nation with the growing pressures being imposed upon it by the outside world, particularly from the integration of western

As a small, geographically-isolated island with a popula-tion of only quarter of a mil-lion, located in the remote but strategically important waters of the north Atlantic , Iceland values its identity as a self-governing democracy based on the principles of the market ecooomy. Ever since their formal declaration of independence from Danish rule in 1944, the Icelanders have built up their country through the strength and ingenuity of their own

By international standards, Iceland is one of the most affiu-ent countries in the world. Its people live longer than most others and its infant mortality rate is almost accountries. rate is almost zero. Most mod-ern consumer durables are owned in ahundance. Icelanders read more books than any other people in the world and they are among the best educated. They defend their ancient language with ferocity from the intrusions of English

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But appearances can be deceptive. Iceland knows full well it cannot survive on its own. Its very existence has always depended on the good-will of others. The country's wealth is almost wholly derived from the success of its fishing industry. Indeed, fish dominates every conversation. Iceland is the world's most developed nation to rely -like a Third World country - on the ups and downs of one com-

Between 70 and 90 per cent of its exported goods in the post-war years have come from fishing and fish processing, even though the industry accounts for only 17 per cent of the country's workforce. The defence of the fishing industry remains vital for Ice-

land's prosperity, but its well-being rests primarily on factors that lie outside the country's own control like changing consumer tastes in the export markets and the



The resolute people of Iceland have accepted, albeit slowly, that their economic destiny

now lies with western Europe, but Icelandic negotiators insist that their country's special needs must be recognised, says Robert Taylor, who wrote this survey.

Ambivalent Europeans

size of the catch which can vary year on year.
Iceland's security rests on the American military presence at the Kellavik base and on membership of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, while its economic interests brought Iceland into member-ship of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in 1967 and the European Free Trade Association in 1970.

However, despite its growing links to the outside world, Ice land has moved only slowly in compromising its national sovereignty. After all, it was only through its unilateral actions that the country eventually established a 200-mile wide,758,000 sq. km. exclusive fishing zone around its coastline in 1975 to protect its main natural resource from others. What worries many Icelanders is a sense of their country's vulnerability. As a result, they have been cautious about forg-ing closer ties with other nations, prefering a rather semi-detached position towards

western Europe, the United States and the Soviet Union. In

the words of Gunnar Helgi Kristinsson at the University

of Reykjavik Iceland in the

involved in the curreot negoti-ations with the European Com-munity on the creation of a Enropean Economic Area to come into force on I January 1993 - and this has meant coming to terms with a wide range of necessary changes as the country has begun to dismantle the piethora of controls and regulations surrounding its economy and emhrace a more open, liberalised market

However, Iceland's negotia-tors know – and so do their colleagues in Efta and the EC – that unless the country can achieve a special deal with the EC to safeguard its fishing industry, it will be unable to agree to any rapprochement with western Europe.
"For ns, relations with

Enrope are a much bigger question than for most," insists Mr Jon Hannibalson, Iceland's foreign minister. In other Euro-pean countries, fish is a mar-ginal, heavily-subsidised industry, hut not here. Our national survival is utterly reliant on fishing. We cannot enter into any economic relationship with Europe on the basis of free trade if our main industry But today Iceland's fishing

Industry is more than ever dependent on access to the markets of the EC. Around 60 per cent of its fish and fish products now go to EC countries. The decline in the value of the American dollar has hurt trade with the US. Since 1972, there has been a free trade agreement between Iceland and EC on free trade in frozen fish, a better deal than the country acbieved from Efta

But fish industry employ-ers lament what they regard as the threat to their interests posed hy the common fisheries policy in the EC and the changes which have occurred in the industry since 1972, such as the growth of processed fish products and fish farming, have meant that less than 60 per cent of Ice-land's fish exports to the EC countries are free of duties.

The EC may be happy to see fresh fish from Iceland in its markets, but high imports threaten to make the country's fish processing industry uncompetitive to the EC -"our main aims in negotia-tions with the EC are clear," asserts Mr Hannibalson, "We want tariff-free access for all our fish and marine products,

but ot the same time we need to safeguard our fish

resources."
"The EC talks of the four freedoms in the internal mar-ket, but we need a fifth - the freedom of seafood trade." insists Mr Magnus Gunnars-son, head of the Union of Icelandic Fish Producers.

Actual membership of the

EC is not on Iceland's current political agenda. Indeed, the prime minister, Mr Steingrinur Hermansson asserts: "We don't believe full membership would suit us. Our economy is so different from that of

He wants to ensure national control over fishing, hydro power and land-ownership. Mr Olofur Hannibalson, the forelgn minister is a little less hostile, but be, too, argues "no long-term acceptable solution with the EC can be achieved unless we can achieve a free trade in fish products.'

Most want to use the collective bargaining power of Efta to prevent Iceland's isolation from the EC. Iceiand's leaders are well aware that their country's

dependence on fish for its live-

lihood constrains their room

for manouevre, so they are increasingly keen to encourage

Exploiting Iceland's enormous under-utilised resources

a greater diversification of the

of hydro and geo-thermal power could make a useful con-tribution to the economy. As Mr Halldor Joantansson, general manager of the country's National Power company explains: "Only 8 per cent of that power – 4.2 TWh a year – has been developed so far."

A feasability study has been made into the coeffibility.

made into the possibility of exporting 500MW of electrical power annually from Iceland to Scotland through a 950km-long suhmarine cable to provide energy for the British con-sumer. It has been estimated that this could be done at a price competitive with nuclear energy, oil and coal, though the initial cost of such a made up of the expenditure on the cable and construction of

power projects to produce the electricity. Mr Cecil Parkinson took a keen interest in the idea when he was UK energy secretary, but there has been less enthu siasm more recently in the Department of Energy, perhaps because of the uncertainties with the privatisation of the supply industry.

Another project that could exploit Iceland's energy resources is the so-called Atlantal scheme to construct a huge aluminimum smelter on the island. This could have a large and beneficial impact on

the economy hy 1995, hut the foreign consortium behind the

project has yet to finally clinch the deal hecause of lack of finance which it is now trying to raise. As a live volcanic island of rugged, spectacular scenery often reminiscent of the surface of the moon, Iceland remains an unspoilt wilderness, which should have an

increasing appeal for a more discriminating kind of tourist. Ms Kristin Halldorsdottir, head of the Tourist Board, wants to huild up tourism carefully - "we don't want too many visitors," she argues. But Iceland has potential for those who want to calm their aching limbs and minds in its hot springs, go on adventure holi-days in its mountains or simply see the sights. A special effort is being made to attract the Japanese, though Germans

coming for holidays. But Mr Gunnarsson at the Icelandic Fish Producers is right to assert that Iceland's

future will remain dependent on its fishing industry. Every discussion comes back to that imperative. This is why (to the exasperation of Brussels, no doubt), Icelandic negotiators insist their country can never hope to fully integrate into the new Europe unless its special needs are recognised and taken

Over the past few years, Iceland has accepted . alhelt slowly, that its destiny lies with western Europe. Despite some anxieties, it is adjusting its economy in a more deregulated, liberal direction, particularly in the financial markets with the gradual removal of

foreign exchange controls. Moreover, public opinion polls suggest most Icelanders are ready to seek EC member-ship. But as Gunnar Kristins-son argues the government strategy of adaptation through Efta coupled with a bilateral approach to secure access for Icelandic fishery products inside the European fish markets can only work "if the EC decides to take a benevolent attitude" of their needs.

If the government's strategy fails, "a debate is likely between those who place their main emphasis on political sovereignty and those who give a higher priority to economic progress," says Mr Kristinsson. This would mean an open national debate about where Iceland's future lies, on whether the country can balance its conception of political sovereignty with its economic freedom. It is probable but not utterly certain that the outcome would be the integration of feeled into vectors.

of Iceland into western Europe. As so often, this depends on how others see Iceland and whether they accept the whether they accept the strength of the country's genuine case for special treatment. But it would be wrong to suggest Iceland is a weak supplicant whose future inevitably lies inside the EC. Culturally and economically, the case for this might look irresistible. Yet it seems just as likely that the country will have to find its own way forward and reach a modus vivendi with the EC. modus vivendi with the EC that stops short of member-

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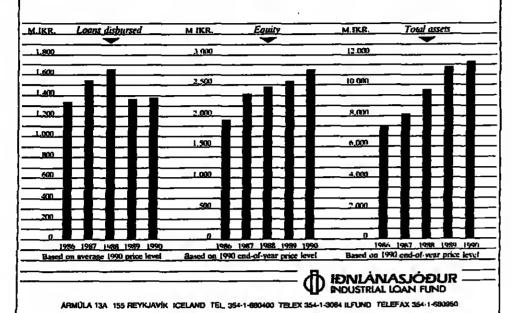
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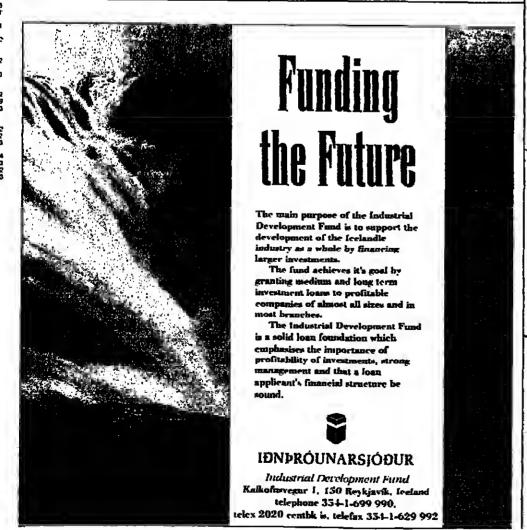
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Strong defence links with NATO and the US

Vital base for naval surveillance

ICELAND is a paradox. A founding member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, it has never had any military forces of its own. The US, through its possession of the Keflavik base in the south west of the island, provides for Ice-land's basic defence, as a result of a bilateral treaty, signed between the two countries in

Iceland's policy of NATO membership and no armaments reflects an ambivalence that lies at the heart of the country's attitude to the outside world. Emotionally, Ice-landers would like to be alone, setting a moral example of how to live for others to follow.

This righteous aspiration was enshrined in the move-ment for independence from Danish rule - we see ourselves as a far-away, peace-loving country," says Mr Albert Jonsson at the Commission on Security and International Affairs. "We are reluctant to recognise we have obligations and responsibilities to face up

The US military presence on the island has been the object of opposition over the years, but not recently. The US forces, in fact, behave with sensitivity – its 22,000 person-nel at Kellavik keep very much to themselves and when they leave the base they do not go out in uniform.

Moreover, Keflavik costs the Icelandic taxpayer nothing. Indeed, it is a bargain for the country, actually making a positive contribution to Its economy estimated at around 7

per cent of export earnings.
Support for NATO and the
US base is now quite strong—
"the base is not an issua."
declares Mr Jon Hannibalson, Iceland's foreign minister.
"Satellite television is more of a danger to our way of life

Anti-Americanism is hard to find nowadays — "don't forget, the US was the first country to recognise our independence in 1944," adds Mr Hannibalson. "Our young people are increasingly going to the US to be educated."

[celanders, however, are not

leclanders, however, are not poodles of American power: they want to exercise what moral authority they can in foreign policy. This helps to explain the recent support given by the Icelandic Parliament to the independence movements in the Baltic states. especially Lithuania.

There is a feeling that it is the duty of small nations to demonstrate their solidarity

with each other," states Mr Hannibalson. He points out that Iceland did not recognise Stalin's annexation of the Baltic states in 1940 and is merely re-asserting its conviction that they should be independent. Whether this will lead to eventual diplomatic recogni-

tion for them by Iceland must remain in doubt, though it remains the logical next step. If the result is a rupture of

prove too high a price for Ice-land to pay.

The country is also keen to press its NATO partners on a non-nuclear approach to naval

Nowadays the former international tensions over Soviet sorties around icejand seem a distant memory

disarmament. Since 1988 the Icslandic government has sought to widen the east-west arms control talks to cover nuclear weapons at sea.

A number of accidents in northern waters involving Soviet submarines has given

this demand greater urgency

- "the hulld-up of Soviet naval
forces is both a military danger
and an ecological disaster for the north," says Mr Hannibal-

Their submarines are poten tial floating Chernobyis. At a

stroke, one of them could destroy Iceland." So far, the rest of NATO and

in particular the US and Britain have not accepted loc-land's pressures to include naval disarmament in their negotiations with the Soviet Union.

But the country cannot escape from the logic of its geography. As Steve Miller argued in a recent study from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Ice-land occupies a crucial geostrategic location, astride the waters that connect the Norwe-gian and Barents Seas to the open ocean of the North Atlan-tic.

It is sometimes said to be the cork that keeps tha Soviet Navy bottled up north of the Greenland-Iceland-UK (GIUK)

Our fate is inevitably linked to that of the US and Britain," admits Mr Albert Jousson at Iceland's Commission on Security and International Affairs. This is why the UK govern-ment occupied Iceland in May 1940 as a pre-emptive move to thwart Hitler and why, in July 1941, - four months before Pearl Harbour - President Roosevelt agreed to station ground troops

Since World War Two, Ice-

base for surveillance of Soviet naval forces from Murmansk and the Kola peninsula. The melodramatic novel by Tom Clancey – Red Storm Rising has bighlighted the importance that Iceland would play in any Soviet military offensive

against the west.

But nowadays the tensions
of the past seem a distant memory - there has been a dramatic drop in the number of Soviet air sorties around Iceland, says Mr Albert Jonsson of Iceland's Commission on Security and International

Affairs.
Yet it seems most unlikely that Iceland is about to lose its strategic importance for the US, whatever happens to the future defence of continental Europe. Steve Miller at SIPRI emphasises that the American role stems from its 1951 bilateral profit with Iceland not

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role stems from its 1951 bilateral treaty with Iceland, not the needs of NATO.

If the alliance was run down or the US decided to pull its forces out of mainland Europe, it would really make little difference to the durability of the American-Icelandic military relationship. As Miller explains, the US has a "permanent concern with the Soviet Navy, in particular because of Navy, in particular because of its enduring interest in pursu-ing Soviet ballistic missile submarines in northern waters.

Political squabbles over taxation policies

Government change expected in April

ICELAND holds its next general election on April 20 and a change of government is expected. The Independence Party - in opposition since September 1988 - looks set to make big gains which may prove enough to ensure it plays an important part in the make-up of the next coalition.
This will not come as a sur-

prise. Independence has held power in alliance with other parties for 33 out of the past 47 years. It retains strong roots across a broad cross-section of the electorate but with a par-ticular strength in the urban

At the last general election in 1987, independence performed rather hadly, falling to only 30 per cent of the vote, but this was mainly due to a split in the ranks immediately prior to polling day with the emergence of a hreakaway group - the Citizen's party -which actually won seven seats in the 63-strong parlia-

Next month that particular party looks set to disappear from parliament with most of its electoral support expected to return to the Independence fold. Opinion polls suggest that

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this seems an unlikely outcome to most observers.

The party's present leader.

Mr Thornsteinn Palsson, who was prime minister from April 1987 to September 1988, accepts he will probably have to forge a coalition with others if he hopes to return to office this apring. He believes Indepen-dence lies closest to the Social Democrats, who will be "easler to negotiate with."
In his opinion, a new govern-

ment with his party as the dominant force would be better able to reach an agreement, through Efts, on the creation of a credible European Eco-nomic Area because his party takes a more positive view of closer relations with western Europe. He also argues that Independence is more ready than the present coalition parties to pursue free market poli-cies designed to attract foreign investment to the country.

He believes the main divi-sion between his party and the others lies in taxation policy. Mr Palsson wants to cut taxes and stimulate the economy. Indeed, he promised - rather rashly, some believe · to restore the level of taxation to what it was two and a half half the vote next month, hut office, something that finance

minister Mr Olafur Grimson ridicules as he attacks Mr Palsson's alleged "irresponsibility"

over economic management.

To the outside world, squabbles over taxation may seem a rather trivial issue to decide what happens in the general election, especially when Iceland faces difficult and crucial decisions It must make soon over its future relations with

western Europe.

But as elsewhere in the Nordic region, the political leaders seem more intent to fudge or divert the attention of the vot-ers away from complex ques-tions that could divide the tra-ditional political system. As a

result, public conflict looks bogus and perochial in Iceland. focusing more on personalities than genuine issues, let alone ideology.

For his part, Iceland's prime minister Mr Steingrimur Her-mansson who leads the Progressive party, is keen to stress his government's economic achievement over the past two and a half years, particularly the readiness to take temporar-ily unpopular measures. The Progressives – like the Centre parties in Scandinavia – draw their support mainly from the rural areas hut the party is more than just a pressure group for the agricultural

interest, Indeed, under Mr Hor mansson's leadership, tha party has gone much further than many of its more tradi-tional supporters would have liked towards creating a more

liberal, open market economy. There is little doubt that the Social Democrats as coalition partners have been keen to urge the Progressives into following a more market oriented strategy - "we are adapting our policies to be in line with European practice to reap the benefits of increased competition, declares Mr Jon Hanni-balsson, the foreign minister and leader of the Social Demo-Continued on facing page

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has broken away from us on five separate occasions."

tion by Mr Hermansson's cen-tre-left government is also enthusiastically supported by the third partner in the coalition - the People's Alliance, which is the most left-wing rty in Iceland. Its leader. Mr Olafur Grimsson is finance

Finland ___

Copenhagen

Aluminium Industry ---

minister and he sounds as fis-

gent controversial exponent of

July, 1991

Sept. 1991

Nov. 1991

is in Icelandic politics, comes from elsewhere. Four years ago the political system was rocked by the arrival of the Women's Alliance in Parliament when they won six seats and 10.1 per

movement rather than a party. the exclusively female Women's Alliance rose in popularity at the depths of Iceland's recession in 1988. Since then it has fallen back

and lost momentum. Informed observers believe WA will find it hard to repeat their 1987 achievement next mooth, but it is possible that they could become a pivotal force in the coalition-making after 20 April. This will depend on their readiness to compromise and sccept the give and take multi-party politics.

has not known for more than 30 years. Indeed, as Mr Olafur Grimson, Iceland's finance minister, declares: "We have "In the forthcoming election,

the issue - as it has been for nearly half a century - will not be on how to get down the rate of inflation, Improve conditions for the fishing industry. bow to devalue the currency or achieve a positive trade bal-

The centre-left coalition has given Iceland n better economic performance than any other European government has achieved over the past

three years," he asserts.
"We have taken the tough asures that were necessary. When I became finance minister in September 1988, we were facing economic catastrophc.

We had no choice but to act." Mr Crimson argues that, has proved that Iceland "does not have to live with a high rate of inflation, as many people believed.

Last year the cost of living index rose by 7.3 per cent, which might he above the OECD average but also hep-pens to be the lowest that leeland has achieved in 20 years. He hopes there will be "no return to the bad old ways of spending as if there was no

Others believe this is possiarrived in Iceland which has

New Realism. It is true he does

not like the US military base at Keflavik and he wants a

rethink of Icelandic foreign

policy," as well as a better deal for the low paid and more

emphasis on cleaning up the environment. But he is as keen

as anybody in the coalition to

curh the rate of public spend-ing increases and tackle the

The People's Alliance may be a casualty in next month's

general election with a fall in

support and it might be forced

into a withdrawal from govern-

ment, but its current term in

budget deficit.

ICELAND'S economy has achieved a measure of stability fluctuations in economic forover the past 12 months that It tune that have plagued it for much of the post-war period.

Both the international Monetary Fund, in a confidential report, and the OECD in its latest survey have expressed approval at the country's cur-

rent economic policy. Forecasters suggest Iceland should manage an average 7 per cent inflation rate this year as further evidence of the success of the present government's stabilisation pro-

Bringing greater calm to the economy has not been easy and it has cost the government much cicctoral popularity. Between 1987 and 1990 ice-land's gross domestic product per bead fell by almost 8 per cent, compared with a 9 per cent average rise in OECD

Private consumption over the same period plummeted by 13 per cent ln real terms, though it rose by 1.5 per cent in 1990. Industrial investment virtually collapsed by as much over the last three years.

helped to stabilise the economy. As a result, the government can point with some validity to other positive results on top of its relatively low inflation rate.

The trade deficit of 1987 and 1988 was transformed into a years, mainly due to a huge three years. An lKr10.6bn trade

surplus is forecast for this increased subsidies and higher year. The balance of payments deficit has dropped from the equivalent of 3.5 per cent of lccland's GDP in 1987 and 1988 to 2 per cent last year and 1.6

per cent forecast for this. The 18-month wage and price agreement reached between employers and trade unions last February helped to contain inflationary pressures by keepings down to 9.10 per cent. Wages are expected to grow by slightly less than 8 per cent this year, according to the latest forecast from Iceland's National Economic Institute. It

social security benefits. For 1991, IKR41.5bn has been allocated for transfer payments but this involves a 3.6 per cent increase, a substantial decline in real terms.

iceland's foreign debt also remains formidably large - a burdensome reminder of past economic mismanagement. It is expected to fall from 48 per cent of GDP last year (\$2.718bn) to 46 per cent this year but the cost of servicing that debt is expected to climb compared with an average 7.5 per cent over the past two

A 'new realism' has arrived in Iceland which has rid the country of the extreme fluctuations in economic fortune that have plagued it for much of the post-war period, say observers.

Tough measures pay off, but they cost the government much electoral popularity

Rapid move towards economic stability

is hoped a new centralised wage and price deal will be negotiated this September for a further 18 months when the present one expires.

There are still some prob-

lcms that worry the Ministry of Finance. The budget deficit has grown larger than anticipated. Last year it amounted to 1.5 per cent of Iceland's gross domestic product and it is expected to total 1.0 per cent this year. The country may have a small public sector compared with the rest of the Nordic region, but its financial demands have to be met.

privately-owned commercial bank in the country. This fol-

lowed the coming together of the Union Bank, the Industrial

Bank and the Iceland Bank of

Commerce who reached an agreement with the Icelandic

government to acquire the state's capital stock in the

Fisheries Bank. All four of

them then merged to form Islandbanki which came into

being on 1 January 1990.

Over the past two years, transfer payments rose by 10 per cent in real terms due to

years. Moreover, Iceland is not going to emerge at a rapid pace from its present stagnation. Indeed, the National Economic Institute has estimated in its latest forecast that growth in 1991 looks likely to be not more than 1 per cent, mainly due to the smaller capelin fish-catch expected this year, as well as the difficult international pic-

term is also sobering. In its 1990 survey of the icelandic economy, the OECD argued that even if "more favourable result in faster growth than "growth dividend" would have

a merger of equals," insists Mr

Valur Valsson, head of the new bank. Islandbanki is keen

to stress competition and qual-

Ity as Its guiding principles in e hanking system unused to

In a further rationalisation,

Landsbanki, the country's

largest bank which remains under state control, took over

the small Co-operative Bank.

the free market.

debt and reduce imbalances." Market-oriented structural reforms which have been carried out since 1987 have "put the economy in a much stron-ger position to adapt and diver-

sify and to reduce the excessive volatility which characterised the past decade," says the OECD. Mr Grimson will fight April's

general election on an eco-nomic programme that calls for an increased purchasing power for the lower-paid, more structural reforms in industry, environmental improvements and, above all, maintaining economic stability. He may lead the most left-wing party in Iceland, but he also argues what the country lacks is "a modern entreprenurial class' with skills in marketing and production methods.

"We must develop an entreorenurial culture." this spring - between continuing to strengthen the economy's stability or returning to the roller-coaster mentality that did so much domage to the country during the 1980s. It may well be that the recovery that has taken place over the past three years is based on tragile foundations and inter-nal and external pressures will refuel an inflationary spiral. Certainly there is a danger project gets off the ground of a return to an arreful if the massive Atlantal smelter of a return to an overheated economy. But the need for rates, a tighter fiscal policy on

The Central Bank is now

examining - at Mr Sigurds-

son's request — whether Landsbanki should be turned

into a public limited company

Many observers believe it is

not if, Iceland's entire hanking

system is freed from state-

ownership.
For the moment, however,

under the state's authority.

ation of a more competitive atmosphere do appear to have more widespread support than

they used to have. Yet observers believe Iceland cannot afford to become complacent. It is too early to jump to the comforting view that the wild swings in the economy

will not return in the 1990s. As the OECD noted in its December report, "avoiding the sort of over-heating that has plagued the Icelandic economy in the past, may prove diffi-

Aluminium project runs into delavs

the country's hopes for greater prosperity lie in the completion of the so-called Atlentel aluminium project. Meanwhile, e consortium eeeks to raise funde from US banks for the \$1bn smelter The plant et Keitisnes, 25 miles south of Reykjavik, with e capacity of 210,000 metric tons e year, could impect on Icelano's econdent Nellonel Economic Institute calculates it would add an extra 4 per cent both to real dieposeble income

and the grose domestic product by 1996. ating with the Icelandic government, the country's National Power company end local euthorities over the project. The three foreign-owned compenies nvolved ere Alumax of the US; Granges, a division of white-goods maker and Hoo-

Dutch company.
At a meeting in New York last month, members of the group end Icelandic govern-It would probably take a lurther eix to ten monthe to complete the financino arrangements, though comletion of contract negotietions is planned within the

Continued from facing page: crats. "But don't forget my party is quite different to the other Nordic Social Democratic parties. We are less statist, less protectionist, more free market and liberal. Perhaps this is due to the fact that our left-wing

But today's market orienta-

cally conservative as any prudent banker would like to hear. It is true that Mr Grimsson's candour fails to please the Sta-linists in his party who yearn for state controls and autarchy, but he seems willing to face down their opposition, in the party ranks hy doing so.

the centre of the British Labour party," says Mr Grim-son. But in fact, he talks more like a member of Dr David Owen's defunct Social Democrats. The market economy certainly looks safe in his hands. Mr Grimson is a pun-

office suggests it is ready as are the other parties to accept market based consensus. What radical challenge there

cent of the vote.

Formed in 1983 as a protest

Changes in finance and banking regulations

An important step forward

ICELAND'S financial and banking system is being deregulated by stages to come into with the European Community's internal market on Jan-

uary 1, 1993. The restrictive structure dominated by government controls really began to liberalise in 1984 when the country's commercial hanks were permitted to decide their own rates of interest subject to the veto of the Central Bank. This was modified still further two

years later with the passage of new banking legislation. Last September another important step forward was taken when Iceland decided to ise foreign exchange regulations on long-term capital movements. Their complete noval will have taken place

hy January 1, 1993. As a result of these changes, icelanders will be free to make direct investments abroad, buy real estate and invest in long-term foreign securities within specific maximum amounts which will disappear hy January, 1993.

At the same time, Icelanders will also able to borrow overseas for whatever reason as long as the transaction is not guaranteed by e domestic ing applying to the size of the amount will increase until it too is dropped on January

"We have followed a step-by step strategy, but the changes bave beeo radical," argues Johannes Nordal, the Central Bank governor. "We ere now operating in a quite different climate to thet of ten years

These developments heve already hegun to transform Iceland's financial system. In 1986, a securitles exchange was opened with the mein trading being carried out hy the Central Benk with the main commercial banks and private brokers also taking part, mainly treding with gov-

ernment bonds. Since 1985, there bas also been the development of mutual funds whose gross essets heve risen from IKx385m in that year to IKx9.780bn by the end of 1989. The tiny Iceland stock market is also going through e period of rapid expansion, helped in particular by beavy share-buying hy the country's pension funds.

In its 1990 survey, the OECD wrote critically of "inadequate competition" in the country's banking system. "Private banks are not con fronted by e level pleying

field," it complained. "State hanks bave the advantage of being able to get assistance in writing off bad debts while their deposits carry a state guerentee. Together with the absence of foreign competition, these factors serve to reduce efficiency and increase deposit rates and spreads for the private institu-

There has certainly been a restructuring of the Icelandic banks over the past two years. Mergers and amalgamations bave been encouraged by the country's minister of com-merce, Mr Jon Sigurdsson. As a result, their number was reduced from seven to 3.

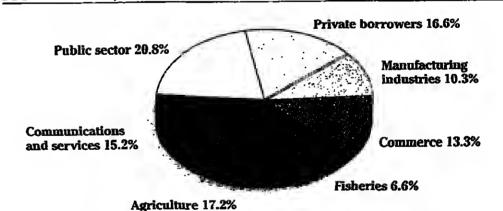
The most important change was the creation of Islandsbanki which is the only major

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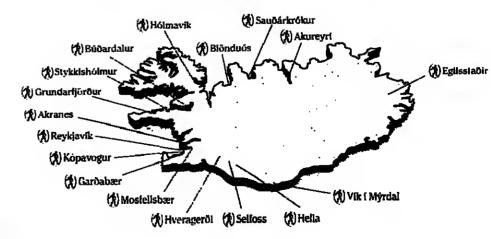
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AND RIBAL

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The best person happened to be disabled.

All that was needed was a little encouragement, a sign that the employer was committed to good employment policies and practices for people with disabilities. Then they might have applied.



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Americans, when a similar por-trayal of hlack characters

would be considered unaccept-able; David Barrell contributes

a hlind Jake Wallace, the trav-

elling minstrel, who is brought back at the final curtain to

give the production its last

Dennis O'Neill's Dick John-

eon sounds first rate and attains a real heroic attack in

the final act; his is genuine

puccipi singing of a superior standard. But he looks, well, a little unlikely as the charis-matic hero of the piece, and much of the time acts awk-wardly as if he knows that.

Donald Maxwell'a Rance is bru-

tal, physical, and once he had overcome the stylisation of the first act, genuinely menacing,

with a well-focussed, never rasping delivery, the violence is never far from the surface.

And Suzanne Murphy is a gen-uinely convincing, moving and often thrilling Minnie, getting

the mixture of toughness and

Sitcom reaches the menopause

he Gulf war has so dominated our atten-tion in the last few weeks that we are in danger of overlooking alto-gether matters which might normally have been the subject of entire columns. Time, then, to take a hroader look at television's spring season and see what trends have been emerg-ing. Consider first the sudden popularity (among programme makers, not necessarily with viewers; that is yet to be seen)

of the sub menopausal sitcom. Time was when half-honr comedies all seemed to he about young people sharing flats, or youthful parents bringing up unruly infants. No doubt that is pretty unsurprising when you consider the writers and producers their own experience ran to sharing flats and bringing up unruly infants. They were members of the 1960s generation and their characters tended to lead lives which - hy television's ultra conservetive atandards, et any rate - were ever so slightly offbeat or daring. For instance in Man About The House (1973) Richard O'Sullivan's unmarrated led character shared a flat with two unmarried girls played by Sally Thomsett and Paula Wil-

Tols seeson Wilcox has turned up as a middle aged mum in Fiddlers Three, Yorkshire's comedy series about jealousy and neurosis in an accounts office, and O'Sullivan takes the lead role of a neu-rotic middle aged psychiatrist in LWT's Trouble In Mind. Epi-sode I was all about his terror of the needle, the injection being a necessary preliminary to his vasectomy. These days of course members of the 'sixties generation, whether successful writers, producers, or actors, are driving around in foreign automatics chatting on their car phones, so that is exactly what the characters in these new series do. In O'Sullivan's case it is a hlack BMW, but the three smart limonslnes which

swished into the hospital car park at the start of Episode I of Doctor At The Top were e Lan-cia, a Saab and e Volvo. (Com-edy writers take a hleakly honest view of the preferences of the better-off British middle

death and the entenary of Prokofiev's birth, there in't much room this year for other anniversaries — except in Czechoslovakia. Prague is husy cele-

brating the Dvorak 150th anniversary, and has also found time for Karel Boles-

lav Jirák (1891-1972), whose Philharmonic Variations opened a concert hy the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra last

Although Jirák spent the last 25 years of his life teaching at the Roosevelt College in Chicago, his name is little

known outside Czechoslovakia. After

starting out as a conductor, he made

vak Radio from 1930 to 1945. Like Martinu, whose path he hardly crossed despite superficial similarities in their

careers. Jirák falls between the late Romentics and the 20th century avant-garde. In his day, his music was admired for its intellectual rigour, but

its stiffness - a lack of spontaneity and

impulsiveness – denied it widespread appeal. As an endgre he was out of favour with the Communists, and his

output has still not been properly cata-

1 liked the *Philharmonic Variations* (1940) immensely. The theme with

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emerged from those cars were Geoffrey Davies, George Lay-ton and Rohin Nedwell, the very people who played the medical students when London Weekend launched Doctor In The House 20 years ago. Now they are the grandees of the medical profession medical profession.

Television is a very young business. There are people still working in it today who began making programmes for the BBC at Alexandra Palace in the early 1950s when there was virtually no sudience (David Attenborough for example). The hig expansion came in the 1960s and for those of us who belong to the sixties generation it is naturally pleasing to see our contemporaries continuing to do so well. Whether it is really in television over it is really in television's own hest interests, however, that this domination should continue is a moot point. Thank goodness for the youthful craziness of Red Dworf where there is an admirable absence of bald patches, vasectomies and foreign limos

and foreign limos.

The second noticeable trend The second noticeable trena is that in drama sexual explic-trness suddenly seems to have become not merely acceptable well mandatory. A hut pretty well mandatory. A new series of "4 Play" opened with a wonderfully heartening drama called Deptjord Graffiti by Sheila Fox in which Nabil Shaban, an actor who is genu-inely confined to a wheelchair because he possesses only about two thirds of a normal body, played George, a tough, obstinate, and inspiring char-acter who disregarded his cir-cumstances and wilfully picked fights with Hell's Angels.

The most admirable aspect of the work was that nobody made condescending allowances contestending anowances for the disabled or disadvantaged; they were simply a natural part of the action and some very powerful material travelled in both directions. "You ever seen an epileptic spastic at full throttle?" George asked mischlevously, and at another point was told, with some justice in terms of the plot, "You're no different, yon're just like all the rest, wrapped up in yourself".

But the most touchy scene was when Cherry stripped off to take George to bed, not out

Czech music: Jirák and Zámečník



Twenty years on: George Layton, Geoffrey Davies and Robin nedwell have risen in the medical profession in 'Doctor at the Top'

a challenge. Some viewers wili a challenge. Some viewers will bave heen emharrassed because some viewers always are, but it seemed to me a key scene. extraordinarily well played. George was obliged for the first time to acknowledge his own reality: "This could break my back. Cherry - I'm e virgin."

There were some ebsurdly

There were some ensurely funny sexually explicit lines in the next Item in this series, lich (more accurately 'itch) written by David Stafford and Alexel Seyle, with Sayle playing the demon hitch-hiker who was marooned on a round-about and inspired the resiabout and inspired the residents of the edjoining estate to change their lives. "Has that lice psck on your scrotum melted yet?" one wife asked her hushand, to which he replied "Ages ago" wherenpon they resumed their intensive efforts to conceive e child.

By now regular readers of this column who remember the demands over the years for the phrase "sex-and-violence" to be broken up, on the grounds that we need more of the former and less of the latter, are probebly mnttering "Surely he's not complaining, he's the one who campaigned for it". But nowhere in this column has there ever been e call for violent sex, sadistic sex, or any sort of cruelty connected with sex - but that is so often what television gives us.

The third work in the "4 Play" series, Daniel Mornin's In The Border Country which invented a most striking visual technique, sometimes reminis-cent of Cocteau's Orphee, had some pretty routine and unin-spiring bonking in it, as well as spiring bonking in it, as well as some extremely unpleasant, uninformetive, and unnecessary violence. But the lulu of the season so far was The Loughter Of God in BBC2's "Screen Two" slot oo Sunday. Why anybody should imagine that the vivid depiction of anal rape and mistress hattering has anything to do with enternainment is quite haffling. Perhaps Tony Bicat could haps Tony Bicat could enlighten us since he both wrote and directed this ludi-

orous farrago.

At least the sex in The Orchid House wes pretty, though a kinder cameraman would have warned Kate Buffery about the little shadows thrown by the cellulite lumps on those sturdy thighs as she storde etertary into the trool. on those sturdy inight as she strode starkers into the tropl-cal pool, Still, it is the very presence of this latterday bod-ice ripper on Channel 4 which brings us to the third trend: the way in which this channel is changing into just another. is changing into just another commercial channel with some conscience-salving minority flourishes.

The change is not so very great because even in Jeremy Isaacs' day Channel 4 screened e higher proportion of Ameri-can programmes than any channel in Britain or Europe, and ratings catchers such as the soap opera Brookside have nel's opening night. But now, in addition to the soap and all

those American comedies in the early evenings (Kate And Allie, The Wonder Years, Happy Days) they also have the Jonathan Ross chat show three times a week, which is as painlessly missable as Wogan. painlessly missable as Wogan.
Furthermore it seems that increasingly often the centre of the evening schedule is occupied by the sort of International drama - Orchid House or LA Law - which nobody could possibly pretend was either a programme for minorities or an attempt to the different programme for minorities or an attempt to the different programme for minorities or an attempt to the different programme for minorities or an attempt to the different programme for minorities or an attempt to the different programme for minorities or an attempt to the different programme for minorities or an attempt to the different programme for minorities or an attempt to the different programme for minorities or an attempt to the different programme for minorities or an attempt to the different programme for minorities or an attempt to the different programme for minorities or an attempt to the control of ties, or an strempt to "be differeot", which was the other famous instruction given to Channel 4. It is possible, though far from certain, that the result of these changes is a small increase in audience share: in the last three weeks their figures have been 10, 10 and 9.5 per cent – but then in the spring of 1988 they took a share of around 11 per cent for an unbroken run of six weeks.
As with menopausal sitcoms

and mandatory sex in drama, this trend is difficult to "prove". But the gut feeling of e regular viewer is that Chan-nel 4, which always was pretty soft at the edges, now has a bit more of a soft centre too. If true it is hardly surprising since the channel is soon going to lose the protection and support of ITV and be obliged to stand on its own feet, sell its own edvertising, and earn its own living. It is as well to be clear about the possible implications of that change.

Christopher Dunkley

La fanciulla del West

NEW THEATRE, CARDIFF

Welsh National Opers's Fanciulla goes at least part of the way to soothing memories of the last sortie to Cardiff for the company's dreadful Count Ory. The new Puccini is decently sung and conducted, and presented in a fine-looking production by the Romanian

production by the Romanian director Petrika lonesco.

The show, shared with the Opera de Nice and first seen there, marks lonesco's British debut. He has lived in France since 1971, and works as both producer and designer, the substantial sets for this Fanciula are his, and were huit in Nice. They are not exactly sumptuous, more carefully realistic: there is a spacey saloon for the first act, with plenty of room for galumphing miners and even for a brief appearance by a dancing bear, Minnie's cahin is a spartan affair but still occupies the full width of the stage; the entrance to the mine for the third is dominated by its railway track and by towering brick walls.
In the outer acts Ionesco fills

in the outer acts ionesco file his acting space with plenty of bodies and a good deal of business. But he seems more convincing on the general effects than at a character-to-character level; there is no obvious attempt to define any character review of the control than any character review. ter outside the central trio, relying on hroad-hrnsh

sketches with little fine detail. in the first act, especially, the action seems over-busy, lurching between stylised posturing and a more casual realism; the quickfire succession of sub-plots that gradually accumulate to give the opera its feeling of place and period are scarcely defined enough and it is only the steadily narrowing focus of the opera liself, one suspects, rather than hy any sense of the production that brings the action finally into

sharper relief. sharper relief.

And so it is when the drama finally settles upon the central trio that the spell of this production begins to take hold, and then Julian Smith's incisive, generously-paced conducting, combined with the highly coloured if elightly coloured. coloured if slightly coarse orchestral playing, pays theat-rical dividends. There is a sturdy gallery of roles around the principals, not all by any means fully fleshed, but never less than acceptable; Colenton Freeman'a Nick and Ashley Thorburn's Ashby are both sung with a fine sense of style. The "Red indian" couple of Billy Jackrabbit and Wowkle are played (well) as standard caricatures by Peter Massocchi and Valerie Seymour - curl-ous that white-liberal sensibili-

ties are not outraged by such

cartoon treetment of native

vulnerability just right, and singing with freedom and easy control. It is one of the virtues of this straightforward staging that she and the other protagonists are given the dramatic space in which to build and doubtless to develop further their performances.

Andrew Clements



Suzanne Murphy: a thrilling Minnie

Heaven

LILIAN BAYLIS THEATRE, N1

There is irony in the fact that London's most famous gay club is located in the arches beneath Charing Cross Station, and that people in search of biss go there through an area long become for its horseless. long known for its homeless occupants. There is another irony in the fact that this club is called Heaven.

This double irony is the premise of this powerful, moving and exciting first play. The ittle Heaven scquires perhaps s triple irony from the fact that its author, Sarah Aicher, was a victim of the Lockerhle air crash. She completed it in 1988

both tough and compa Contrasts abound. Act One is centred around the contrast between two pairs of men -Billy and Johnny, tramps, and Steven and Blair, gays. The dif-ferences are plain. The two bomeless are eccentric, in self-imposed exile, alternating obscurely from present con-cerns to obsessive memories. They evoid sensation; the two

gays seek it. But by the time you take in this much, you begin to see parallels too. In either pair, (Johnny's or Blair's) dominates and torments, but the other's spirit (Billy's or Steven's) is larger and more sympathetic. And each man is variously preoccupied by thoughts of love.

At first, the two pairs ignore each other, then, when Billy and Steven strike up a wordless friendship by chance, they connect; finally, in the climax of Act One, a melodramatic twist shows that they have been connected all along. As such twists go, this one is effectively prepared; and it

effectively prepared; and It then becomes the premise for what follows, in which Steven like some latterday Orpheus
 descends into the underworld home of the homeless. A play that began as if it had no

plot to speak of turns out to be Act One is the more poetic. especially in Billy's half-crazed zigzaggings between thoughts of religion, birds and women. He, the tramp, is the play's most chivalrous and complex character, Sam Dale plays him with fine intensity. The force of Act Two is largely based on fierce dialectic hetween Johnny, ruler of the underworld, and Steven; and Jeff Harding is grinning as he Harding is gripping as he makes Johnny's bitter, cruel

pride more and more compre-hensible. And, alas, more

Crispin Redman portrays Steven's dilemmas simply, directly, affectingly. Robert Blythe is well cast as Blair,

and the psychopathology of religion.

The most haunting and dis-

The image I cannot shake off is of him, seated in Heaven, seated in profile to us as if in prayer, gazing transfixed up at the wall-sculpture of Marilyn Monroe, gazing as if asking for her to intercede. Again and

Alastair Macaulay



■ AMSTERDAM

Concertgebouw Grote Zaai 20.15 Anton Kersjes conducts Netherlends Philharmonic Orchestra in Wagenaar's overture Amphitrion and Franck's Symphony in D, with Emmy Verhey soloist in Bruch'e Violin Concerto. Fri: Janos Furst conducts Gade and Nielsen with Hague Residentie Orchestra. Sat et 15.00: Rotterdam Philharmonic plays Messiaen's Turangailla Symphony. Sat et 20,15 and Sun at 14,15. Whifgang Sawallisch conducts Concertgebouw Orchestra, with Murray Perahla (6718 345) Concertgebouw Kielne Zasi 20.15 Orlando Quartet plays string quartets by Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven. Fri Mitsuko Shirai and Udo Reinamann sing Wolf's Morike Liedar, accompanied by Hartmut

Holl (6718 345) Stadsshouwburg 20.15 Nederlands
Dane Theater in ballets by Hans van Manen, Paul Lighttoot and Paulio Ribeira, elso tomorrow (6242

BERLIN

Staatsoper unter den Linden 19.00

What with the bicentenary of Mozart's which the violins open the work is e death and the centenary of Prokofiev's summy, snave, laid-back tune, and a perbirth, there isn't much room this year fect vehicle for development. Jirak disguises and transforms it with impecca-hie taste and lively invention, handing over one set of variations to concer-tante violin and horn, presenting another as a fugue, yet another as a march. Jirák turns out to be an expert orchestrator, but there is nothing academic about his treatment. The tex-tures are clearer, more Romantic than Martinu, and some harmonies are even rather languid. One detects e central European Vaughan Williams. Only in the final paragraphs — which blaze to a quick conclusion - are there signs of the Czech bite one had been expecting

This performance in the Smetana Hall, conducted by Tadeusz Strugala from Poland, was followed by an equally well-argued account of Mozart's Symphony No. 40 and Harold in Italy with Wolfram Christ. Perhaps Libor Pešek - who has already introduced the music of Jirák's teacher, Vitezslav Novak, to audiences in Liverpool -might now also consider programming

Under the Communists, state-supported

Siegfried Kurz conducts De

as Max. Tomorrow: Die

Sun: Parsifal (2004 762)

Freischutz, with Reiner Goldberg

Fledermeue. Sat: Die Zauberflöte.

Deutsche Oper 19.30 Madama

Butterfly with Yoko Wetanabe In

the title role. Fri: Il trovatore. Sat:

erally hundreds of operas, most of which will never again see the light of day. Having sampled a good few of them, I am not about to spring to their defence. In 40 years' time, a few might filter through — and children's operas stand as good a chance as any. This was a genre which the machine of state culture could afford generously to support. To my knowledge, no-one used the medium to write coded messages for posterity; but the genre hrought to the fore some talents that would not other wise have been recognised - such as Evzen Zámečník (b.1939). Brouk Pytůk ("Brouk the Beetle"), one of several children's operas be has written, is currently proving popular in Prague.

culture in Czechoslovakia spawned lit-

Zamečník comes from Brno and stud-ied in Munich with Gunter Blaias. In the 1970s he worked as a violinist in the Bruo orchestras. Brouk Pytlik is based on a popular children's picture-book of the 1930s by Rudolf Zak — Jiri Pauer has written e ballet on the same theme. All the characters are insects, so there is plenty of scope for imaginative costume designers. Brouk is a well-mean-ing hut bumbling Bunter-like figure, who keeps getting into a fix and blotting his copy-book with other members

of the insect kingdom. Of course, he immediately wins the affection of a children's audience.

Zámečník is well eware of the educa-

tional opportunity at his disposal. After introducing himself et curtain-up, Brouk merrily drills a chorus of junior insects in the importance of rhythm and intonation. Each of the orchestra sections is given a chance to make us presence and role clearly identifiable. There is a delicious, dreamy walts, pleoty of punchy ostinatos and a serepleoty of punchy ostinatos and a serethe for two sopranos that is Ravellian

The some unnecessary loose are some unnecessary loose. But it is absorbing in its touching simplicity. The music is ends. But it is absorbing light hut never trivial.

Children's opere is something the National Theatre's ageing roster of artists - so lacklustre in other activities at present - does rather well, and Brouk Pytlik has something for nearly everyone. This production of the Sme-tana Theatre, staged by Miloslav Nek-vasil and conducted by Jan Stych, included a cameo by Helena Tattermuschove (one of Prague's best postwar Vixens) as a spider and a strong central performance from Bobuslav Marsik in the title role. In e suitable translation, the opera would travel well.

Andrew Clark

one msn's force of will

show (Nell Simon), Mule Bone, a play with music, written in 1930 during the Harlem reneissance, with a cast representing the cream of black theatra over the past 20

anawars inquiries and sells tickets

Christopher Hogwood conducts Academy of Ancient Mueic (4742

Opéra Comique 20.00 Paris Opéra Ballet in Coppelia and Balanchine's Divertimento No 15. The decor and costumes for Coppélia heve b modelled on the designs for the work's creetion in 1870 in Parie. Thie programme runs till next Wed, except Mon (4286 8883)

■ STOCKHOLM

Konserthus 19.30 Okko Kamu conducts Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra in e programme of Berlioz, Stravinsky and Maros. Repetted on Fridey in the Berwald Hall. Sat Okko Kamu conducts popular orcheatrel programma (244130)

■ STRASBOURG

Palais des Congres 18.30 Spiros Argiris conducts Parsilel with Warren Elisworth in title role end Mstthias Hölla as Gurnemanz. Also Sat (8837 6777)

Théâtre Municipal 20.00 Poulenc'a La Volx Humaine sung by Anne-Marie Blanzat, plus Manuel Rosenthel'e La Poule Noire, elso Fri and Sun (8875 4823)

■ UTRECHT

Bruggen conducts Netherlands Baroqua Orchestra in music by Bach, Muffat end Delalande. plays Messiaen's Turangalila Symphony (314544)
Vredenburg Kleine Zasi 20.15
Sharon Ouartet pleys string
quartets by Haydn. Fri: Orlando
Ouartet pleys Mozart (314544)

Taddel singe Falstaff (51444 2960) Musikverein 19.30 Dirk Joeres conducts Westdeutsche Sinlonie in music by Vorisek, Haydn and conducts Czech programma with Austrian Radio Symphony Orchestra (505 8190) Konzerthaus 19.30 Piano recital by Ingeborg Baldaszti. Sun: Alfred Brendal plays Mozart piano concertos with Camerata Academica conducted by Sandor Vegh (7124 6860)

■ ZURICH

choreographed by Peter Schaufuss (251 0909) Kongresshaus 20.00 Vanessa, Lynn and Jemma Redgrave in London West End production of Chekhov's

physically the most attractive character, morally its most repellent. The tramps confuse their thoughts of love and home with thoughts of religion - paradise lost - and in par-ticular of the Virgin Mary. The play's tronies are never more stirring than in these connec-tions between homelessness

turbing performance is given by Oscar Quitak, in the small but pivotal role of another est character, Jack. In Act Two he is locked into his own men tal retreat, and the look on his face is like one of Rembrandt's or Cézanne's paintings of old

if-

again, e twitch passes through one hand, as if he were plucking et e rosary.

Tosca (3410 249) Berliner Ensemble 19.00 Galileo of Wales). Phone Theetreline: Plays 0836 430959 Musicals 0836 430960 Galilei. Fri: Baal. Sun: Mother Courage (2827 712) Schaubühne 19.30 Luc Bondy'e Gleelle choreographed by Peter **■ PARIS** Cornedles 0836 430961 Thrillers 0836 430962 Philipermonie 20.00 Heribert Beissel conducts Klassische production of The Winter's Tale, also tomorrow and Fri (890023) Palais Garnier 19.30 Nederlands Dens Theeter in Keguyahime, ballet by Jirl Kylian with music Philharmonie Bonn in music by Cherubini, Mozart and Haydn. ■ MILAN by Meki Ishil, also tomorrow at 14.30, plus Fri, Sat end Sun et 19.30. Tomorrow et 20.30: **■ COLOGNE** Tomorrow and Frl; Neville Marriner conducts Bavarlan Radio Testro alla Scale 20.00 Lorin Maszel conducts Jonathan Miliar's

Philharmonie 20.00 Cleveland Quartet gives European premiere of Stephen Paulus' First Quartet, and is inined by Sabine Meyer for Brahme' Clarinet Ouintet (2801) neuspielhaus 9.30 Brandan Behan's pley The Hostage, also (221 8400) Kammerspiele 20.00 Brecht's in the Jungle of Cities, also Fri and Sat (221 8400)

■ GENEVA Victoria Hall 20.30 Armin Jordan conducts Orchestre de la Suisse Romande in Schuhart's Great C major Symphony and Dutilleux's Cello Concerto with Francois Guye. Sun; Paul-Louis Siron conducts Handel's oratorio Jephtha (292511)

■ MADRID

Auditorio Nacional de Musica Sala Sinfonica 19.30 Saulius Sondeckis conducts Chamber Orchestra of Lithuania, with Cristina Bruno piano soloist, also tomorrow. Fri, Sat and Sun: Aldo Ceccato conducts Spanish National

Auditorio de la Musica Sale de Camara 19.30 Borodin Ouartet, also tomorrow (337 0100)

■ MUNICH MUSIC

Stantsoper 19.30 Cinderella choreographed by Riccardo Duse, music by Prokoflev, Sat end Sun: Symphony Orchestre (48098 614)

■ LONDON DANCE

Covent Garden 19.00 Last performance this season of Netalia Makerova'e production of La Bayadère, with Lealey Collier (240 MUSIC

Collegum 19.30 Monte Jaffe sings the title role in Aribert Reimann's Lear, conducted by Peul Daniel. Tomorrow and Sat: The Turn of the Screw. Fri: Ruselke (836 3161) Royal Festival Hall 19.30 Norman dal Mar conducts Rovel Philharmonic Orchestre in music hy Brahms and Sibelius. Tomorrow and Sun: Giuilni conducts the Philharmonia (928 8800)

Queen Elizabeth Hall 19.00 Peter Robinson conducts David Freeman's Opera Factory production of Le nozze di Figero, eung in Engliah (928 8800) THEATRE

Thia week's shows include Peter

Hall's production of Shakespeara's

Twelfth Night (Pleyhouse), Silly Cow, Ben Elton's new pley about a gossip columnist ((Heymarket), Steve Berkott's adeptation of Kalka's The Trial with a cast led by Anthony Sher (National), Joe Orlon's clessic black comedy What the Butler Sew (Wyndham's) and Andrew Lloyd Webber's latest musical Aspects of Love (Prince

West, with Mary Jane Johnson as Minnie and Giorgio Lamberti es Dick Johnson. Also Fri and Sun (7200 3744)

MUSIC

■ NEW YORK

Metropolitan Opera 19.30 Jiri Kout conducts Der Rosenkavaller, with Mechthild Gessendorf es the Merschallin, Tebana Troyenos es Octavian end Aege Heugland ae Ochs. Tomorrow: Katya Kabenova. Fri: Le nozze di Figaro (362 6000) Afice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center 20.00 Jullierd Overtet with Michael Tree, viola, pley Mozart quartets and quintets (874 2424) DANCE

New York State Theater 20.00 Joffrey Ballet: Dieghilev programme. Season runs till Merch 17 (870 5570) THEATRE

This week's shows include Henry IV Parts 1 and 2 directed by Joanne Akalaitis (Public), the comedien Jeckie Meson'a one-men

years (Ethel Barrymore), and Lerry Gelbart's City of Angels, musical satire about Hollywood in the 1940s (Virginia), Ticketron (246 0102)

Vredenburg Grote Zael 20.15 Frans Tomorrow: Rotterdam Philharmonic

VIENNA Staatsoper 19.00 Peter Scheufuss

atars in his own production of La Sylphide. Tomorrow. Gluseppe

Opernhaus 19.30 La Sylphida

Three Sisters. (221 2283)

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1230-1300 CNN Market Watch
1330-1400 Business Day
2000-2030 World Business Today - a joint FT/CNN production with a review of the day's major business stories 2300-2330 World Business

Today 0100-0130 Moneyline 0700-0830 Financial Times Business Report A five minute business brief-ing broedcast three times en 0700 and 0800 2130 & 2320 (Wed only) end 0830 (Thurs only) Financial SATURDAY

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Superchannel 1800-1830 FT Businesa Weekly 0710-0740 Moneyweek

1540-1610 Your Money 1900-1940 Moneyweek 0040-0110 Inside Busine

Wednesday March 6 1991

Telecoms in a freer market

TELECOMMUNICATIONS is an industry with a hrilliant future which is still struggling to escape the shackles of its paet. Accelerating technologipaet. Accelerating technological change is creating new opportunities for competition and undermining both the economic and the practical basis for the monopoly provision of services. However, simply declaring open season for all-comers is not enough to ensure real competition. Over the decades, telecommunications decades, telecommunications monopolies have built up powerful entrenched positions, which enable them to suppress new entrants and distort the market. Hence, the long-term goal of a completely free mar-ket – if it is achievable at all - can only be reached by the

application of firm regulation.
The British government has rightly recognised this paradox in Its White Paper on the future of telecor policy. Though formally a review of the duopoly shared since the early 1990s by British Telecom and Mercury, the paper's main concern is to curb the monopoly power of BT, which still supplies more than 90 per cent of UK telecommuni-

cations services.
On most of the hlg issues, the paper hits the right targets. The duopoly over fixed telephone links is to be replaced. hy an open licensing policy which will enable any British or foreign company to enter the market. If US experience of total liheralisation is any guide, this will benefit customers by promoting wider choice and lower tariffs for many services. Initially, at least, most new entrants will compete for market niches and will have to ronte much of their traffic through BT's network. Since BT can hardly be expected to co-operate spontaneously, the government sensibly plans to require it to give its customers equal access to all rival long-distance services and to provide standard terms for net-

Price capping

The clearest sign that lower-ing entry barriers alone is not enough to protect customers' interest is the government's decision to continue and toughen regulation of BT's tariffs. The price capping mechanism will be extended to cover

which BT has agreed under official pressure to cut prices by 10 per cent. So long as international services remain a de facto cartel worldwide, there is clearly a case for price con-trols. However, in this case unlike the provision of local telephone services - there is ample scope for more competi-tion. It is disappointing that the government has not dis-played stronger determination to set the market free by hastening the demise of the cartel.

Tariff 're-balancing'

From the perspective of BT's shareholders, the review may seem unduly harsh. However, the new price control mechanism goes some way to meet-ing the company's demands to be allowed to "re-balance" tar-iffs, and thet freedom will be increased from 1993. Less easy to justify is the continued ban on BT providing cable televi-sion services on its network. The main effect is to deny BT'e customers the efficiencies which could he achieved hy combining telephony and tele-vision on one network.

The biggest criticism of the government's new policy is that it has not done more to require transparency about BT's financial structure. It has been too easy for BT to use commercial confidentiality as a reason for withholding information of legitimate public interest. That may be an argu-ment for companies operating ment for companies operating in normal competitive markets. But it sits awkwardly with BT's monopoly position. Customers need to be able to see for themselves that they are not heing overcharged, and competitors to be sure that BT to not wife the content of the state of the sta is not unfairly cross-subsidis-

ing its services.
The Office of Telecommunicatlons has also refused to divulge such information, on the grounds that it is well able to protect the public Interest. But though Oftel has per-formed a creditable job so far, lack of public transparency makes it harder to demonstrate lts independence. Avolding that pitfall is made all the more important by the expan-ded role conferred on the agency by this new policy. Oftel and ministers should recognise that regulators need to be accountable too.

Midland tries again

SO MIDLAND Bank has a new chairman-elect and s new business plan. The next few years will show "a radical improvement", it is claimed. But we have been here before. Five years ago, the Bank of England installed its then deputy gover-nor, Sir Kit McMabon, as chairman and chief executive in order to lead the troubled Midland to secure recovery. instead, the bank has swung from one crisis to another.

The failure of Sir Kit's strategy has derived directly from the collapse of the plan for a merger with Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. But the lesson is not just that a misconceived strategy was adopted, but that while interference by banking regulators in commercial decisions may reduce systemic risk to the banking system, it is liable to involve high costs for shareholders. There were obvious political attractions for the Bank of England in creating a new international British bank. But commercial forces, if they had been allowed freer

they had been allowed freer rein, would prohably have thrown up a different solution. If Midland had been a food manufacturer or s ladies' fashion chain, it would have been unlikely to have remained todered the past five independent over the past five years. But it is a bank, and as such has been able to rely npon the protection of a regu-lator. Potential predators have been frightened away, perhaps not all of them culte so outra-geous as Saatchi & Saatchi. There has been much criticism of the excessive use of the takeover mechanism as a cure for management failings in Britain, but Midland Bank provides a case study of what happens when management is released from that ultimate threat: there has been a steady decline, and a failure to face hard decisions, so that only now is it making a serious attack on its cost base.

Takeover unlikely

The Bank of England'e cocoon does not entirely exclude a takeover of Midland, at least by an EC-domiciled bank, but it does not look a likely solution at present. If one of the other domestic clear-ing banks were to make a move, its aim would essentially be to shut Midland down. That

would not only be distressing as a management proposition, but the henefits would he enjoyed by the other banks as well as by the bidder. The other clearers are happier that Midland should remain in existence as a weak competitor. Potential foreign hidders in Japan, the US and Germany are all absorbed with local problems and opportunities.

Establishment solution The natural commercial bid-

der for Midland now would be a non-bank, one capable of tak-ing drastic corrective action, and with no hostages at stake elsewhere in banking. Alternatively, tough new non-banking management could be introduced by shareholders, again with a brief to turn Midland around quickly. But such moves would not be in the interests of the regulators, who are primarily concerned with maintaining orderly conditions and reducing the short-term systemic risks; short, eharp ehocks are not desired. Therefore we have another establishment solution, a little modified (there will be no controversial doubling-np of the roles of chairman and chief executive this time) hnt fundamentally much the same.

Shareholders' response may be crucial. It is essentially they who have borne the costs of past failures. It is true that anybody who buys shares in a hank must accept the con-straints that result from statutory regulation. Yet the Bank of England has powerful supervisory tools at its disposal: lt can veto individuals, it imposes stringent capital requirements and it receives a voluminous stream of information about the risks being undertaken. The public also receives a degree of protection from the deposit insurance scheme. Given all this, the question is whether the Bank needs to don braces as well as a belt and interfere so much in the ownership of major banking institutions, shutting out important elements of the normal rough-and-tumble of the

As they look at Midland's shrunken balance sheet and its halved dividend, shareholders may wonder whether the cost of modern banking regulation is being fairly apportioned.

lived up to its rare ability to send shock waves to the furthest reaches of the UK banking industry. The combination of the first UK clearing bank dividend cut in 50 years and the replacement of the chairman by two outsiders - one of them from a rival bank - was heady stuff even for a time when bank losses have been

packing the headlines.
For Midland, the UK's chronically troubled clearer, this will be its third attempted fresh start in 10 years. And if it fails it may well be its last. The City of London's banking climate is now fiercely unforgiving, and it is no surprise that the Bank of England was closely involved in bringing about yesterday's developments. Sir Peter Walters, the former BF

chairman who takes over in June, and Mr Brian Pearse, the finance director Mr Brian Pearse, the finance director of Barclays who moves in promptly as chief executive on Friday, have an enormous task ahead of them. Midland is much the weakest of Britain's Big Four, its staff are deeply demoralised by the seemingly endless stream of bad news; and the recession is corroding the bank's very foundations. Last month the share price hit a Last month, the share price hit a

"A lot of things have gone right, but a lot of things have gone wrong," said Sir Kit McMahon, the bank'e outgoing chief executive and chairman, in what seems an understatement of his bank's turbulent recent past.

It is a history that encompasses the disastrous acquisition of the US-based Crocker National Bank in the early 1930s which was supposed to launch Midland onto the international scene but collapsed with humiliating losses: the abortive engagement with the Hongkong Bank which was called off in December; and now a top level

To these should be added other eelf-inflicted wounds which dehilitated what was once, in the 1930s, the largest bank in the world: a £5bn port-folio of loans to the Third World, a hadly mismatched treasury hook which will cost Midland up to £250m before the positions close this year, and a tardy attempt to correct the bank's high cost structure.

The fact that Sir Kit is leaving a year ahead of time suggests that his board thinks that a new team is the bank's best hope. His own five-year stint disappointed the expectations that were aroused when he left the deputy governorship of the Bank of England to take the job. In three of those years, shareholders took a loss. Analysts have blamed his lack of managerial experience. But had luck also intervened: the recession in the UK and elsewhere put paid to the Hongkong plans, and all but pushed the bank into the red last year.

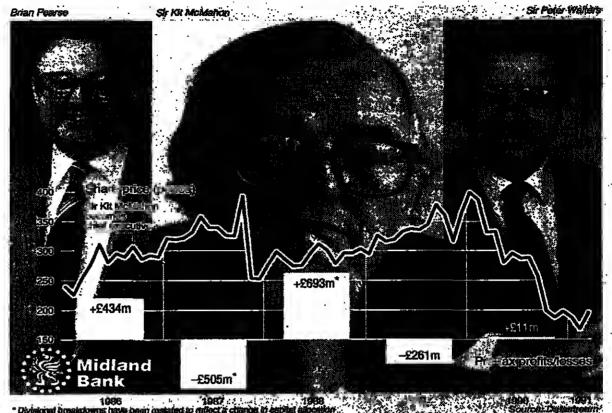
Yesterday, Sir Kit analysed Midland's funderental problems with his

Yesterday, Sir Kit analysed Mid-land's fundamental problems with his customary frankness: It had failed to generate enough earnings to huild up its capital, he said, and its cost struc-ture was too high. He hoped that the foundation had now been laid for progress on both those fronts, but the fact that his farewell set of results included the historic dividend cut must have been a bitter personal dis-Sir Kit's original plan had been to

build his own succession into the merger plan with the Hongkong Bank. The combined role of chairman and chief executive was plainly too much for one man and would have to be split up. He would become chair-man of the merged group, and Mr Willie Purves, Hongkong's chairman, would be chief executive, aiming to succeed him in a year or two. But when the engagement was broken off, he had to re-think from scratch. Sir Kit held discussions with his England, and they identified Sir Peter Walters as a likely candidate. Sir Peter had previously been a member of the board of the National Westminster Bank, and a potential chairman

As the chairman of Midland Bank is replaced, David Lascelles reports on the continuing saga of woe at the UK clearer

Outsiders to the rescue —



there as well. He agreed to accept the Midland post.

The task of finding a chief execu-tive was much more delicate since Sir Kit plainly did not think that any of his lieutenants were up to the joh. Instead – again with the Bank's prompting – he focused on Mr Pearse as a man who fulfilled the require-

ment for a thoroughly experienced clearing banker with proven manage-ment skills. But there is a powerful taboo on

For Midland, the UK's. chronically troubled clearer, this will be its third attempted fresh start in 10 years. And if it fails it may well be its last

"poaching" among the upper echelons of the clearing banks, and Sir Kit felt able to recruit Mr Pearse directly. Instead, he enlisted the good offices of Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Bank's governor, to negotiate directly with Sir John Quinton, Barclays' chairman. The approach caused deep shock at Barclays, and particularly with Mr Pearse himself. He says he and his wife spent five days thinking about it, and even then he would only accept provided he was able to retire from Barclays rather than resign, to remove any stigma of betrayal. The whole process is an illumina-

its shirt in the US, and most

is Midland's prime need.

Finding a chair

Although Sir Peter Walters

it does raise the issue of why a candidate could not have

After all Midland has more

than its fair chare of respect-able industrial heavyweights.

The fact that Sir Peter apparently did not see eye to eye with some of his other direc-tors at National Westminster

Bank, when he was being con-

sidered for the chairmanship of that institution in 1989, sug-

pressure from elsewhere.
Sir Peter's record as a man-

ager at BP is impressive. He captained the UK's largest oil

company through a period of turbulent change and yet knows how to delegate. Since

missing out on the chairman-ship of NatWest he has lcoked

in need of an *important* job, and Midland fits the bill nicely.

Traditionally, Midland has

always had a non-executive

chairman. Sir Peter now has

to show he is cast in the same

mould as predecessors like Reginald McKenna, Viscount Monckton and Sir Archibald

Forbes and once again make Midland a great British bank

■ The publicity surrounding

Sir Kit McMahon's years as

obscure his previous 21-year

chairman has tended to

Early days

gests Midland's board was either very brave or under

been found from within the existing board.

ting reflection of the way the City operates at times of stress. However it also indicative of the way things have changed. In previous times strong banks were asked to take troubled banks under their wing. Now, in more competitive times when bank mergers are less well favoured, strong banks are asked to transplant their nent skills.

The most striking point about Mr Pearse's arrival at Midland is that it still leaves at only two the number of top Midland executives with a clear-

ing bank background.
The other is Mr Brian Goldthorpe

like Mr Pearse from the north of England - the deputy group chief executive, and a hardened troubleshooter with more than 40 years in the bank. The remaining top team were all put in place by Sir Kit and are still relatively young: Mr George London, the Dutchman who heads Midland Montagu, the institutional banking side; Mr Richard Delbridge, the finance director recruited from Morgan Guaranty; and Mr Gene Lock-hart, a former US management con-sultant who runs UK banking.

Mr Pearse's task will be to re-instil some clearing bank culture into the top management, a task for which he is well suited after a wide-ranging 40year career at Barclays, most recently spent managing the bank's balance sheet. Along with his experience, the 57-year-old Mr Pearse brings an outgoing personality and a high degree of dynamism, hoth of which will be

Kit's colleagues, and it is believed that the Bank of England had to soothe bruised egos at Midland in order to win acceptance for the appointment there. All of the top management pledged their support publicly to the new appointees yester-day. But Mr Pearse will have to work to secure their personal loyalty. "I shall have to be careful," he said. "There are young executives of con-siderable ambition there." Further down the bank, the

The bank has proved a graveyard for several distinguished careers. Many in the City yesterday described Sir Peter and Mr Pearse as brave men

appointment is likely to go down much better. The bank's rank and file had felt alienated by the top layer of management which was not only fail-ing to solve the bank's problems, but also did not belong to the clearing bank culture. Brian Pearse looks like one of us," said one staff member

Mr Pearse was unwilling to discuss essential qualities.

Not surprisingly, the decision to go outside came as a painful blow to Sir to generate. Staff will need to be

remotivated, and a clear etrategy enunciated. Both men can be expected to devote a lot of time to touring the branches and rallying the troops.

But in practical terms, it is the bank'e balance sheet and its profit and loss account that need the most

urgent attention. Mr Lockhart has aiready made a start on bringing the group's costs down through a combi-nation of much tightened controls and staff lay-offs (4,000 jobs are going).

A long-planned centralised process-ing system for cutting the cost of

cheque handling is also being phased in. At the end of last year it was already handling three quarters of already handling three quarters of Midland's cheques; by the end of this year it be handling nearly all of them. Midland believes this system will make it a market leader in UK banking. But there is still a long way to go. Midland's ratio of costs to income last year was 76.3 per cent, compared to 65.7 per cent at Barclays and only 44.4 per cent at Abbey National.

At the same time, tighter central

os.7 per cent at Barclays and only 44.4 per cent at Abbey National.

At the same time, tighter central controls have been imposed on credit to minimise bad debts. The Third World portfolio has been reduced by £1.5m through a programme of asset sales. On the deposit side there is a drive to win a greater share of the market and reduce funding costs.

A series of disposals of non-essential businesses is also under way. On Monday, Midland amounced the sale of its French mortgage subsidiary to the Woolwich building society. And there have been persistent rumours of larger sell-offs in the pipeline.

It is only by generating more profits that Midland will be able to accumulate the capital it needs to strengthen its balance sheet. But with total assets shrinking by 5 per cent last year, Midland may also have to accept a smaller and more specialised role in the market. It has already been forced to withdraw from many overseas markets.

In the UK, it has the traditional strengths of a clearer with a large branch network in the country's high streets, and this will obviously form the core of the group. The question will be how many of Midland's other activities will rate as "core" busi-

Midland Montagu, which handles institutional and international banking, has been rumoured as a possible divestment. Last year it bore the brunt of the difficulties with Midland's treasury book and with its company bad debts. But Midland Monpany ban debts, but minimum mon-tagu'e capital markets operations and Samuel Montagu, its merchant bank-ing arm, both performed reasonably well given market conditions. Other important euhsidiariee include Thomas Cook travel and Forward Trust leasing, Midland failed to find a buyer for Everyard Trust less year but buyer for Forward Trust last year, but both of these might also be offered for

Midland would be vulnerable to a complete takeover in its current condition, but for the fact that there are at present no obvious bidders in the at present no obvious bladers in the market. None of its peer group of UK clearing banks wants to assume the cost and responsibility of Midland's business, and few foreign banks are currently in a position to bid, even if the Bank of England were to give its

This will give Sir Peter and Mr Pearse a much-needed breathing space to turn Midland round. They will be able to draw encouragement from the fact that a start has been made on its hitherto most intractable problems: costs are falling, the Third World debt burden is lightening and the treasury book mismatch has been hedged. There is also a prospect for further falls in UK interest rates. But Midland has proved a grave-

yard for many distinguished careers, and failure by the new team to restore the predators who are certain to emerge once conditions improve. There were plenty of people in the City yesterday who described Sir Peter and Mr Pearse as brave men.

The real surprise

■ The real surprise in the Midland Bank boardroom is not the importing of Sir Peter Walters as non-executive chairman. It's that the group has had to recruit a senior clearing banker from arch-

enemy, Barclays. Brian Pearse is not even being asked to observe the usual quarantine period. At 57, be joins Midland with immediate effect, carrying with him all Barclays' strategic secrets. There could be no better indication of the severity of the problems he faces.

Midland Bank has stood out from its peers in being a heavy recruiter of top outside talent. Of the five most senior executives, only Brian Goldthorpe, the deputy chief executive who started with the bank in 1949, has been on its payroll more than five years. But until now Midland Bank's problem was not seen to be a shortage of traditional clearing bankers.

Aside from the deputy chief, the other obvious candidate for the topmost job was Gene Lockhart, the 41-year-old tech-nology wizard. However, while Goldthorpe was considered too pedestrian, Lockhart was deemed too exciting. As for external candidates, it would be surprising if a

banker like Bruce Patullo, Bank of Scotland's 53-year-old chief executive, had not been considered. Lloyds Bank's Brian Pitman would have been another obvious quarry. But he would probably have insisted on Lloyds taking over Midland, which would have caused all sorts of monopolies and mergers commission prob-

With only two years left at Barclays, Pearse has little to lose by the move, except his reputation. An ex-Martins Bank man, he is one of the many Barclays footsoldiers who have marched alongside the various members of its knowing they were unlikely



We got the contract to

incarnation as a central banker. Clever, popular and unstuffy, he was recruited into the Bank of England as an adviser in desperately trying to beef up her economics capabilities after criticism from the Radcliffe committee. He rose rapidly to become an executive director in 1970, and deputy governor to Gordon Richard-son 10 years later. But he remained something of an out-sider, and ultimately the gover-

norship passed him by.

It was as deputy that he enjoyed the most dramatic moment of his career. It came when - with chief cashier David Somerset and a partner from the Bank's solicitors Freshfields – McMahon weot to Algiers during the negotia-tions to release the American hostages in January 1981. The Bank was appointed escrow agent holding the funds against the transfer of which

to Iran the hostages were He was said to have relished this episode. But a less happy incident was the Johnson

Matthey affair when the Bank's handling of the matter caused grave disquiet in the City. He weathered that storm, although not without later crit-icism that he had distanced himself from it perhaps too

His appointment to the Midland met with general approval in Threadneadle Street. "We felt that if anyone could clear up the mess, Kit could", recalls one of his former colleagues.

Ex-gamekeepers ■ Merchant bankers may make good central bankers

and vice versa. But do central bankers make good commercial bankers? The question is inevitably raised by the Sir Kit McMahon's departure. Like Rodney Galpin over at Standard Chartered, he was parachuted in by the Bank of England to take charge of an institution which would be on the Bank's worry list, if it ever admitted having one. There is a mystique about

central bankers - a belief they know how to sort out problems appointments were not regarded as particularly unusual at the time. The Old Lady knew best, it seemed. Nevertheless, there is no necessary reason why a central banker should be better than anybody else at running a hig learing bank. A central bank

is a mixture of academic institution, nationalised industry and official regulator. Keeping an eye on the bottom line is not a prime item in a central bankers'training. True Robin Leigh-Pemberton, was a good chairman of National Westminster Bank, and has by most accounts acquitted

himself well as Governor of the Bank of England. Sir Jeremy Morse, a former executive director of the Bank. has been an excellent chairman of Lloyds Bank. But then he has been assisted by a strong and able chief

فتنزه س INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT SAFETY AT SEA OSLO - 9-10 APRIL - 1991

FOCUS ON SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT An ageing world fleet with a growing scarcity of qualified personnel and an increasing petroleum production offshore, present a challenge to individuals, industries and governments.

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NORWAY

r Jacques Lesourne is an example of a breed as rare in france as it is elsewhere: the businessman-philosopher. He will need every ounce of his business sense, and lashings of philosophy, if he is to succeed in his new job as boss of Le Monde, France'e most distin-guished daily newspaper. Mr Lesourne, a distinguished

economist and former com-puter software consultant who two months ago became the first non-journalist to head Le Monde, is just begining to make his mark on this troubled and loss-making institution. His arrival marks the end of a serious leadership crisis at the newspaper. His mission: to sharpen up the business practices of a paper that has tradi-tionally been run like a cross petween a workers, co-obers from the g closs while at the same time nurtur-

ing its special culture. He is under no illusions about the enormity of the task. Redundancies must be made and costs curbed, he says. The paper needs to do more than produce regular annual profits (though Le Monde, in common with many of its competitors cannot even do that these days) to guarantee its future. It needs better access to capital. That means there must be a That means there must be a rethink of the staff sharehold-ing structure, under which all journalists have a stake, a structure that has complicated past attempts by the paper to raise institutional funds. But at the same time, the journal ists' independence, manifested in their right to veto board

decisions, must be protected.
"It is a bit like running a consultancy again," said Mr Lesourne, 62, who started his business career with 17 years at the head of Sema, the Anglo-French computer services group. "It is full of grey matter, which must be kept autonomous, except the difference is that the company has both an advertising and an

industrial arm. Le Monde has held a special place in French intellectual life ever since its birth in 1944, when General Charles de Gaulle asked the late Mr Hubert Beuve-Mery, the grandfather of post-war French journalism, to found a newspaper that would turn its back on the corruption and intellectual dishonesty of the pre-war French

Yet the early idealism has seemed far away over the past year, with the paper's journalists locked in political battles over who would succeed Mr André Fontaine, tha former director who retired in January. The journalists' choice was Mr Daniel Vernet, then managing editor. But in the

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A world of difference

William Dawkins talks to Jacques Lesourne, the new boss of France's most distinguished daily newspaper

end, the non-journalist shareholders - a mixture of sup-portive readers and industrial companies - rejected him on the grounds that someone with business experience was needed to lead Le Monde out of its financial difficulties.

Le Monde has taken on the extra costs of moving to Its futuristic new headquarters and opening a new print plant at the worst possible moment. The advertising downturn, and the paper's debt burden, last year wiped out the paper'e profits. It is unlikely to return to the black until 1992.

What was needed was a leader who could straddle the two worlds of journalism and management. Mr Fontaine approached Mr Lesourns, one of the few men in France who seems to fit that description, just as the latter was settling down to write a book for the summer holidays. Mr Lesourne received the



Lesourne: rare breed

drain from the Maghreb, to the rental market for industrial property. He reveals himself as keen European and a tough defender of the independent line which Le Monde has pur-

offer with understandable surprise, dismissed it as unlikely while he finished his hook, then accepted it with even more surprise when it became clear that Mr Vernet's candidature would fall. He had just a few weeks to sound out small groups of Le Monde journal-ists, a careful and diplomatic approach which has won plaudits from the staff.

Mr Lesourne is a typically multi-talented product of the French élite. Apart from his business experience, he is a skilled planist, has written 19 books on economics and inter-national politics and held down an economics professorship at a respected Parisian university for 17 years.

His animated conversation shifts across a field as wide as Mr Lesourne's own life; from the crisis of the French national identity in end-of-cen-tury Europe, through the brain

- eince its foundation. Mr Lesourne will take a tougher grip on Le Monde'e business management than his four predecessors; soon after his arrival, the cover price rose. But he has also already shown that he cannot resist the temptation to steep himself in journalism almost as much

To be editor and chief execu-tive at the same time is unheard of in Anglo-Saxon newspapers. But it is an immutable part of Le Monde's tradition, and unsurprising given the usual French practice of giving the top person in a com-pany the job of both president and managing director.

Mr Lesourne says he might write the odd economics piece - implying that he will not appear as regularly as Mr Fon-taine. Yet he will have a big contribution to make to debate

on the issues of the day. One of his hig priorities will be to encourage journalists to deepen their analysis and broaden the context in which they view events. "If there is a weakness, we need to take the larger view more often," he

says. He is also pre-occupied with tensions between the develop-ing world and the west. "In the next 10 years, I expect the place of the Third World to be much more important in our coverage, he says. Cynics used to tease Le Tiers Monde in the 1970s for its obsession with the developing world, especially with France's former interests in North Africa. But Mr Lesourne worries that it may have subsequently gone too far in the other direction: he has just reopened an office in Bangkok after seven years.

There will be a revolution among the middle classes in the Third World, who will increasingly move to Europe. Already we are seeing a brain drain from North Africa into France. How Europe is going to react will be another big question," he says.

Within France, a debate on immigration and national iden-tity has been under way for years, visible on the fringes of politics in the success of the extreme right National Front. Mr Lesourne believes the iden tity of the French state will be vitally important question for Le Monde in the decade to come. He wonders how far the French tradition of the state as protector and provider will survive the growing integration of

What will it mean to be French in the year 2000? The French believe that French thought is universal. Can we be universal and French et the same time?"
Mr Lesourne flercely rejects

suggestions that Le Monde has drifted towards the government line in recent years. "The government is increasingly irritated by our positions," he maintains with satisfaction. The problem is that it has

become increasing hard to dis-tinguish between the policies of government and opposition since the end of the Socialists' experiment with economic and industrial interventionism in 1981-1983. This might explain why personality battles have become the dominant feature of centre-ground French politics, adds Mr Lesourne. Clearly, Le Monde has not

just swapped a journalist for a single-minded manager as its new leader. He will have to strike a fine balance if he is to keep a firm hand on the busi-ness while at the same time giving a free hand to Le Monde's fragile intellectual

Edward Mortimer

The Iraqis deserve better

These are cer-tainly decisive days for the future of Iraq. It is very a clear idea of FOREIGN what is going

AFFAIRS on from outtry, and probably even more difficult for most people inside, given the disruption of communications caused by the allied bombing and now by the allies' occupation of part of the south. But it sounds as if there is an insurrection, accompanied by heavy fighting, in most of the southern cities where the mass of the Shia Moslems - the

country - lives.
In the northern mountains, Kurdish nationalists claim to have surrounded the city of Sulaimaniya, though as of yes terday they had not confirmed the claim to have occupied it, made on their behalf by the spokesman of another opposition group in Iran. Yet in Baghdad, the only place where there are reporters

majority community in the

from the international media, there had up to yesterday been no visible sign that the govern-ment's authority was being questioned. It was able to send representatives to the south to negotiate with allied commanders last Sunday - although admittedly it took them 24 hours longer than originally planned to get there - and to begin implementing the agree-ments reached there, with the release of 10 allied prisoners on

Mooday. Everyone must be a little surprised at the co-operative attitude the regime is now displaying, after so much bombastic intransigence before the fighting started and even, until the very last days, while it was going on. There is a grotesque contrast between the absurd claims of victory still pouring out of Radio Baghdad and the abject eagerness of the govern-ment to comply with all the conditions imposed by the allies for a permanent ceasefire. President Saddam Hussein is clearly not pursuing the etrategy which many of us most feared, of deliberately provoking the allies into a war deep inside Iraq.

The west should resist the temptation to foster another strongman in Baghdad

before 1968. He has made a lot of enemies inside and outside Iraq since then. For all his rhetoric, he is not the leader of a revolutionary mass movement. He is the head of a high-ly-organised police state, and his only real hope of survival is to maintain himself in that position. He has realised belatedly that a deal with the allies, no matter how humilisting, is the one chance he still has of doing that.

Appallingly anough, the allies are close to concluding that such a deal might be in their interests too. Of course been said about him, would be

(if such it is) in the south are

Islamic ones closely connected

because there are so many outstanding claims and grudges against him. Internally, of course, his teeth will still draw blood (they are doing so even as I write), but another leader from the same stable would not necessarily be any milder. In any case, concern for the human rights of individuals in Iraq has never been at the top of the allied agenda. Rulers of other Arah countries, with the exception of Syria, would pre-fer power in Iraq to remain in the hands of the Sunni Arab minority, which has dominated successive Iraqi regimes since the state was set up in 1921, rather than see it pass to the Shia majority. The fact that the only political movements and leaders so far named in connection with the nprising

Evidently he does not relish the prospect of returning to the clandestine existence he led, in rather easier circumstances.

with Iran will have done nothing to endear it to these other

they would still prefer a leader with another face and name. Dealing again with Mr Saddam personally, after all that has awkward and embarrassing. But in practice it may not make all that much difference. For external purposes, Mr Sad-

Arab rulers, who must now be suddenly remembering why it was that they supported Mr Saddam for so long. The last thing they want to see in Iraq is a pro-Iranian Shia theocracy. News of a Rurdish rising in the north will have a similar effect on the rulers of Turkey: the last thing they want to see is an independent Kurdish state, which would inevitably be an inspiration to Kurdish separatists on their side of the border. As for western policymakers, not only are they anx-lous to avoid upsetting their Turkish allies. They also fear, understandably, that Iraq could turn into another Lebanon, with different parts of the country controlled by different communal factions: a lethal chessboard on which neigh-

Many western experts seem close to accepting the Ba'athist premise that Iraq can only be held together by a tough, centralised and dictatorial regime. This is a recipe for instability and violence

dam'e teeth have been drawn.
and he might even be more
amenable to external pressure
than another leader, precisely each other, using local militias as pawns. Indeed, many western experts seem close to accepting the Ba'athist premise accepting the Ba'athist premise that Iraq is e country which can only be held together by a tough, centralised and more or less dictatorial regime. Yet it is precisely that recipe that has brought Iraq to its present pitiful state, it is a recipe for insecure governments, which assume disloyalty and conspiracy are at the root of all their problems at home and abroad, and which turn instinctively to violence and intimidation as the first instruments of their policy. If the Sunni Arab minority, led by Saddam or not, is now encouraged once again to use its con-

> We have no right to assume that Iragis are incapable of

trol of the armed forces to per-

petuate its hold on power, tha result can only be to condemn

Iraq, and its neighbours, to fur-ther decades of instability and

anything better. The Kurdish leaders, in spite of their justi-fied resentment of the fact that their people, divided among four Middle Eastern states (or five if we count the Soviet Union) has never been allowed the right of self-determination, have consistently adopted the

slogan of "an autonomous Kurdistan in a democratic Iraq".

The Shia leaders too have been persuaded, since the failure of their people to rise in support of Iran during the Iran-Iraq war, that Iraq is too com-plex and beterogeneous a society for its problems to be solved by an Islamic revolution on the Iranian model

Kurds and Shias came together last December, and have been joined by secular and liberal opponents of Saddam Hussein's regime including some dissident Sunni officers, on a platform that calls for human rights and democrate. The alles in their care racy. The allies, in their own interests as well as those of Iraq, should encourage them to stick to this platform, and to

Such a programme for Iraq may sound utopian. Yet the conditions that make democracy work may be closer to being fulfilled in Iraq than in any other Arab country. As a pseudonymous Iragi economist pointed out on this page two days ago, Iraq is a rich country not only in oil but in other natural and above all human resources, with a literate population and a highly-educated

It is also rich, too rich, in experience of where extremist politics can lead. The revolu-tion of 1958, greeted with enthusiasm at the time by most sections of the popula-tion, was accompanied by an orgy of violence and led to a series of military regimes, each resting on a narrower base of support than the last and cul-minating in Saddam's dictator-ship. Iraq's political class is haunted by that memory, as Spain'e under of the civil war.
Admittedly Franco was a very
enlightened dictator compared to Saddam, but even under Saddam the country did develop, especially before he began his gross misdirection of its resources into aggression against other states. The Iraqi people now must be in many ways more sophisticated than they were in 1958, They

Assurance on ethical questions in business research

seem to imply a widespreadlack of concern among business schools about ethical issues as a whole and the funding of research more specifi-cally. While there are clearly critical distinctions between consultancy and research, it is too eimple to assume that research funded by research councils is 'good' while that

funded by companies is 'bad'.
At Warwick Business School,
which currently receives
around 40 per cent of its
research funding from research

in TV contracts

From Mr W.L.King. Sir, Yon report ("TV chief warns franchise round could be disastrous", February 27) the view of Mr Greg Dyke, managing director of London Weekend Television, that there is a danger of television franchises going to whichever company takes the most optimistic view of the market and bids high on that basis. high on that basis.

high on that basis.

Apart from the rogue lowhidder coming through to win
on the basis of exceptional circumstances, provided for in
the Broadcasting Act (which is
not really what Mr Dyke was
referring to), there is also a
potential financial sieve or
exclusion. The Independent Television

Onmission must not consider bids unless the bidder will and can comply with certain requirements (including a commitment to screen high quality programmes), throughout the licence period.

reacted period.

For this purpose, the FTC will be checking the financial foundations underlying applications to see that they are realistic; the FTC will be taking a merchant bank's advice for this purpose. Bidders who are too optimistic will thus be excluded.

This all adds to the lottery factor. Applicants will have to make assumptions and prepare financial forecasts which get through the above vetting procedure, so they must not be too optimistic. But they must seek to outbid their unidentified W.L. King.

10 Norwich Street, ECA

Sir, The comments by Simon
Holberton ("Unanswered Ethisuccessful subscription 'clubs' cal Questions", February 28) supporting the Centre for Cororate Strategy and Change and the Financial Options Research Centre. Neither of these clubs has significantly influenced either the publication of our research, beyond the common concerns about confidentiality for both individuals and organisations, or the extent to which we take a criti-

For many schools, like War-

funding mech own example of John Kay indicates, it is the potential misuse of the name of an individual academic that is the problem rather than the role of research subscription clubs. To confuse the two is rather like arguing against boards of directors because of the occasional misuse of the external status of cal and evaluative view of non-executive directors. Robin Wensley,

school activities.

real issue with a particular

Warroick Business School, Coventry, Warwickshire

wick, it is also hardly novel to suggest that they should evalu-ate academic staff on teaching.

Lottery factors Make SIB deadlines easier to meet will be - disinterested. ary, however, the SIB, in a fan-

From Mr R Wells. Sir, The chairman of the SIB, Sir David Walker, has made a plea to his critics to be more

plea to his critics to be more specific." when commenting on the regulatory shake-up over which he is presiding.

As a lawyer attempting to advise on the regulatory structure, let me be specific. The SIB core rules were issued in draft form in the summer of 1990 and comments ware invited by mid-October. These rules, however, are of little use to practitioners on

their own because they need to be read in conjunction with the detailed "third tier rules" to be made by the various SROs. Some SROs have still to publish their third tier rules, but just before Christmas the inst before Christmas the Investment Managers Regulatory Organisation (Imro) duly published its offer in two volumes (600 pages), carefully based on the SIB core rules, inviting comments by the end of February At the beginning of Febru-

fare of self-congratulation, pub-lished its core rules in their final form. What the SIB did not say was that the core rules had been substantially revised, thus rendering almost unintel-ligible third tier detail in some important areas (such as polarisation and Peps).

Now Imro sends its members two vital consultative documents demanding comments

by March 28.
Throughout the financial services industry I meet people who are throwing up their hands in horror as they try to

hands in horror as they try to meet deadlines imposed on the industry by the SIB while the SIB itself moves the goal posts during the game.

No, Sir David, that is not "generalised whingeing" — it is a plea for a more realistic attitude to the problems of securing compliance when resources within the industry are not limitless.

R Wells,

5 David Road Lenes E Susser

5 Park Road, Lewes, E Sussex

research and participation in From Professor Howard Newby Sir, I was puzzled as to why Simon Holberton confuses a Simon Holberton, in his article "Unanswered ethical quessuggests that it is n essary to create another funding body exclusively for business research.

The article recognises that the Economic and Social Research Council is a source of independent funds for eocial science research of the highest quality which, of course, includes business research. The ESEC is already commit-

ted to working with business and is happy to consider the joint funding of high-quality research. Necesearily, any research we fund must

Economic and Social Research Cherry Orchard East, Kembrey Park, Swindon

Advice for the bank manager

From Mr Colin Clark.
Sir, Anthony Harris, in the penultimate paragraph of his column ("Excess of good manners on the south coast" March 4), implies that the involvement of banks in the management of troubled companies would be beneficial.

In the light of the results currently being reported by the banks, could be enlighten us as to why they can run other peo-ple'e companies better than their own? Colin P Clark.

Royal Mint Level. Europe House, World Trade Centre, E1

Separate deals on pay and hours at W.H. Smith

From Mr Jeremy Windust. Sir, In an employment page article "W.H. Smith agrees 8.3 per cent pay rise" (February 28), the writer reported on two issues with which my union, issues with which my union, the RBA retail book associa-tion, has been in negotiation and consultation with W.H.

These two separate issues the annual pay review and cuts in hours which the company has concluded are necessary in light of the recession , have been reported as a "pay and productivity deal". However, pendently of any question of cuts in hours, and, indeed, the pay deal covers large numbers of staff: for instance, depart-ment managers, for whom cuts

cuts in hours, which was not the case. Second, it was reported that

the so-called agreed cuts in working hours will last for a

year. In fact, the company told

in hours did not apply.

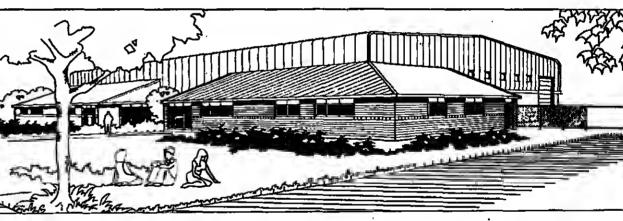
The term "pay and productivity deal" clearly implies that the pay offer was linked with

the 8.3 per cent pay offer was put to our members quite inde-be reviewed after four months, and staff have been asked to agree to temporary reductions in hours over that initial

Detailed agreements are being reached on implement-ing these reductions on a branch by branch basis, and it is our hope that cuts can be restored at the earliest oppor-Jeremy Windust, general secretary, RBA, 89 Commercial Road.

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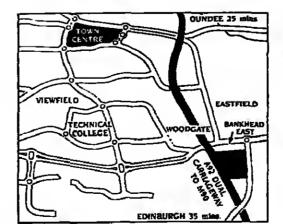
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هدا من الاصل

Brady's bank reform plans come under fire

on the committees for allowing

commercial groups to own banks (also opposed by both the CBO and GAO) and for

hreaking down the harriers

between commercial banking

which the administration seems to regard as a lower pri-

on reform of deposit insurance

both the short-term recapi-

ance fund and changing the

The Treasury proposed

compromise, reining back the federal guarantee to \$100,000

per depositor per bank for the time being, while retaining the

"too hig to fail" approach of

insurance system.

The main immediate focus is

Some of the more far-reaching ideas may be watered down, writes Peter Riddell

R Nicholas Brady, US treasury secretary, always knew that to propose far-reaching changes would invite criticism from the myriad of affected bodies.

So it has proved. After an interval while the telephone directory-size report was digeeted, there has been a flurry of critical comment in the past week as Mr Brady has testified before the Senate and House Banking committees and all and sundry have offered their view.
Yet it is not all bad news for Mr Brady. The commants of

congressmen showed wide-spread support for the princi-ple of reform, more strongly expressed in the Senate than in the House. There was backing for stronger supervision and earlier intervention with troubled banks, as well as some limited changes in bank struc-

The greatest support is for a proposal which would allow banks to operate across state lines. At present, bank holding companies can own eubsid-laries in several states (with a handful of exceptions), hut they have to be separately capitalised.

Mr Brady has said nation-wide branching is the priority often claiming that it could save as much as \$10bn, compared with current annual



US treasury secretary Nicholas Brady: not all bad news

hank profits of \$25bn, while providing considerable benefits

provious considerable benefits to consumers.

This proposal has also been hacked by congressional watchdogs such as the General Accounting. Office (GAO), although with expansion limited just to financially strong banks, and the Congressional

Budget Office (CBO).
However, Mr Brady still faces considerable scepticism from congressmen from small towns and rural areas worried that hig national groups will gobble up local community banks.

These doubts may lead to amendments requiring the approval of state regulators.
There was much less support protecting uninsured deposi-tors in exceptional, defined circumstances.

Mr Brady believes "too big to fail" has to be kept, not least because other countries main-

tain such an approach.

His plan has satisfied few.

Supporters of small banks argue that large banks would have a hig advantage, especially with nationwide hranching. Others have argued that protection of uninsured deposi-tors, if it is a least-cost solution, in practice represents little change. The CBO yesterday argued

that federal regulators would still have too much discretion in protecting large banks, say-ing it might be preferable to accept a small risk of Contagious runs on banks in exchange for the henefits of greater market discipline. However, the GAO has said

that "due to the current stresses in the banking system it does not believe that placing all uninsured depositors at greater risk (by cutting back insurance coverage) is wise at

A further controversy has developed over the Treasury's plan to cut the number of federal regulators from four to two, taking regulatory work away from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and limsing holding companies in which the main bank is state chartered. At

present the Fed regulates all bank holding companies, cov-ering 90 per cent of all US bank assets and most international transactions. But under the plan, the Fed would lose its regulatory authority over federally chartered hanks although it would still supervise state-chartered banks such as Bankers Trust, Chemical and Morgan Guaranty.
A new Treasury agency

would supervise companies where the main bank is federally chartered, such as Citi-bank and Bank America.

he Fed strongly opposes this provision, arguing that such a change would undermine its operation of monetary policy and its abil-ity to handle shocks to the inancial system.

Such specific criticisms may

undermine the general thrust of reform, especially as the detailed legislative package.

promised by the end of Fehru-ary, has not yet appeared. Some hanking legislation will almost certainly pass this year – in spite of serious divi-sions and lack of clear leader-ship on the House Banking committee. But the odds are that Mr Brady will have to accept the deferment, or sub-stantial watering down, of some of his more far-reaching ideas for changing US banking.

W German

retail chain

THE SALE of east Germany's largest department store chain, Centrum, has finally

been completed after almost a year of tough negotiations, with the 14 stores parcelled

ont between the three big west German honses: Karstadt,

This gives the western groups a major foothold in the east, even if the hulldings are much in need of renovation,

the staff of retraining and the relatively poor east German citizens more inclined to spend

in discount retailers for a

The stores had hoped to

complete the Centrum deal well hefore the incrative

Christmas season, but compli-

cations over property rights,

competing claims between the

Kaufhof and Hertie,

while to come.

By Katharine Campbell

stores buy

Centrum

in Frankfurt

Midland takes its medicine

The departure of Midland Bank'e chairman and the halv-**Fisons** ing of its annual dividend have Share price relative to the FT-A undoubted eymholic force.
Indeed, the world of the UK
clearing banker may never be
quite the same again. The
response by the British financial establishment has been in one sense traditional: to instal a couple of heavyweights from elsewhere in its ranks and leave Midland to dig itself out of its hole. The alternativa approach, that of rescue by takeover, looks more remote than ever. From this view-point, it is the more welcome that Midland should have been seen to pay for its mistakes like any other organisation. While the dividend cut was

more than justified by the trad-ing performance, it leaves a recession, and there is plenty of scope to cut costs. The main elements of last November's preliminary pronasty hole in future policy. There is no saying how much profit Midland will make this posals are intact: the endiyear. The outlook for its core UK business is so bleak that bad debts may well increase again. It may be that the gradual unwinding of its treasury the duopoly, the relaxation of restrictions on cable companies and the principle of equal access. But BT muet be delighted to have won so much of the argument on cross-subsi-dies and price flexibility, even-if a full review must wait until mismatch, an improving LDC debt position and the continu-ing profitability of Midland after the next general election.
While bringing down the cost
of international calls and
attacking one of Mercury's
main attractions, BT will be est recovery in this year's profits. But the possibility of a further cut in dividend cannot absolutely be ruled out either. That said, there is a sense of main attractions, BT will be free to push up the price of line rentals and possibly of local calls as well. If its shares respond favourably today, BT will only be reaping the reward for doing a fair job of protecting its shareholders interests. The regulator will need to prove that consumers are to be protected as well. clearing the decks about yes-terday's results. The tax provi-sions and ACT write-off leave room for significant tax relief on future profits. Work on the cost base, while it still has a long way to go, is at last yield-ing results. But there will be no real basis for valuing the shares until the naw hoard makes its decision on the next interim payment. The most that can be said in the mean-time is that an historic yield of 6.4 per cent makes Midland Airline policy

fashion by Midland yesterday:

that the chairman of a UK

clearer is running a business as well as a bank.

Yesterday's government statement on the future of the

UK telecoms industry is no bad

profitability, at least in the short run. Competition may

indeed hot up eventually, hut

BT has got at least part of what it has been gunning for out of the policy. Meanwhile, it

is sitting on an industry which

UK Telecoms

Judging by the early signs from the market, British Airways and BAA look set to be the main losers from an open door policy at Heathrow Cer-tainly BAA, which shed a penny to 419p yesterday, can hardly relish the prospect of look curiously expensive as a recovery play compared with 7.0 per cent from NatWest. And after all, NatWest's chairman last week made precisely the point illustrated in different potential customers for Stansted switching their affections elsewhere. Conclusions about BA, though, which lost 5 per cent of its value against the market trend, may be a lit-tle premature. After all, the Government may have issued an invitation to all comers at Heathrow. It has yet to explain how they will all be accommo-

Moreover, while BA's slots will no doubt continue to be the envy of its rivals, Lord King can he relied upon to fight tooth and nall to retain his airline's privileged posi-tion. He will cite committ-

riers - BA's real competitors are not under any serious pres-sure to give ground in their domestic markets. Here he cer-tainly, has a point: With the EC's liberalisation programme running out of steam, Air France and Lufthansa have been allowed to get away with excessive concentration at home. Perhaps in the current dismal trading climate, RA's shareholders should simply hope for an all-out auction at Heathrow. Those BA slots would probably be the most valuable asset in its balance cheef. 'lake!

roat

Fisons -

Putting yesterday's full year figures from Fisons alongsite those of Glaxo last week, the thought occurs that one or other stock must be wrongly priced. Fisons has just pro-duced a rate of earnings growth more than double Glaxo's and may do the same this year. Thereafter, a comonly produce a worthwhile drug every five years or so to maintain momentum while stream of blockhusters. Yet Fisons' shares are on 14 times this year's earnings, Glazo's on

17 times. Part of the problem is Fisons well-known dependence on financial engineering: the 22: per cent tax charge, the 10.9m net profit on £116m of net debt. But the trick of borrowing in dollars to make deposits in sterling, for instance, was copied by Glaxo for the first time last year. And while such earn ings are obviously worth less than those from prescription drugs or scientific equipment. Fisons shows a remarkableknack for repeating them.
It is also undeniable that of

paper at any rate, Fisons' tiny £70m R&D budget looks remarkably productive: not only treatments for asthma and epilepsy, but such modish potential best-sellers as an ACE inhibitor heart drug and a proton nump inhibitor for the proton dependent of the proton dependent of the proton dependent of the proton of the proton dependent of the proton of th ulcers. Financing these drugs through development and marketing is, of course, another matter. But the scientific equipment division is there at least partly to smooth earnings. through the bumpy patches. Failing that, a merger on the right terms would do shareholders no harm. As for the Glaxo comparison, one hest-tates to call the turn on Glaxo even after the further 5 per cent surge in its shares yes day. It could just he that

BRITAIN'S AIRPORTS

Heathrow opened up to all airlines

By Paul Betts, Aerospace Correspondent, in London

THE BRITISH government threw open Heathrow airport to all airlines yesterday in the biggest overhaul of UK civil aviation since the privatisation of British Airways four years

The decision is expected to intansify competition at the world's largest international passenger airport and underpins the government's commit-ment to liberalise air transport. However, the move is also likely to spark controversy both within the government's own ranks and in the UK avia-

British Airways, which is expected to face heavier com-petition from international carriers and domestic airlines, has always opposed the opening up of Heathrow, its main operat-ing base. Its shares fell sp to 165p yesterday Mr Richard Branson, chair-

man of Virgin Atlantic, tha Gatwick-based long-distance airline, last night described the

US PRESIDENT George Bush

yesterday urged Congress to

give him renewed "fast-track" authority to negotiate interna-tional trade agreements.

In an attempt to translate some of his surging post-Gulf

war popularity into clout with

Congress, the president insisted that fast track was

necessary for completing the Uruguay Round talks on liber-

alising world trade and for

launching North American free

the president can submit a

to Congress, which must vote

on the entire package without altering or amending it. The

current authority expires June
1. Mr Bush wants a two-year

"I know we're facing a tough

With fast-track authority,

trade talks.

decision as "a triumph for fair competition and marks the start of a new phase in UK aviation history".

Until yesterday, only airlines which had operated services at Heathrow before 1977 were allowed to use London's leading airport.

The decision, announced in the House of Commons hy Mr Malcolm Rifkind, transport secretary, also clears the way for an agreement between the US and the UK on a bilateral air service accord between the two countries. This would enable Pan

American and Trans World Airlines, the two financially-strapped US carriers, to transfer their Heathrow route rights to United and American Airlines respectively.
UK and US transport offi-

cials will resume negotiations on an agreement tomorrow in Washington. The US is expected to make several concessions to open access of its

fight on this in the Congress," he told a gathering of husiness

But he said a vote against fast-track would he a vote

against vibrant international trade and that "it would be a shame to see special interests

in this country gun down fast-

Efforts by the administration

to conciliate opponents of the Uruguay Round have begun to

show signs of splitting the

strong coalition against exten-

extension include environmen-

taliste, farmers, consumer.

church gronps, textile and apparel manufacturers and

hour. Their opposition is

directed at the Uruguay Round, tha proposed North

American free trade agreement

However, forces against the

leaders yesterday.

domestic market to UK carri-ers to enable agreement to be finally reached hetween the

The Civil Aviation Authority recommended in January the scrapping of the four air traffic rules in south-east England. Mr Rifkind yesterday accepted the CAA's advice on three of them.

His decision aholishes all restrictious on new operators of international airline services, charter flights and domestic services at Heathrow and Gatwick. But he has kept the restrictions on business jets and all cargo flights at the

two airports.

However, Mr Rifkind empha-sised that his decision did not give new airlines automatic access to Heathrow, one of the world's most congested airports. He said airlines would have to seek take-off and landing slots at Heathrow through the existing airport scheduling

Environmental, consumer

and church groups have sent letters to every memher of

Congress warning that the fast-track extension could evis-cerate "hard-fought gains" in

US environmental, consumer,

worker protection laws and other domestic programmes.

Trade agreements could nullify many US safety or environ-mental standards by classify

ing them as nontariff trade

Some environmentalists have begun to reconsider their opposition to fast-track in the

hope that the administration will agree to include their con-

cerns in the North American trade talks. They were also swayed by inclusion in the

fast-track request of the admin-

barriers, they say.

"As there is already almost full ntilisation of Heathrow'e capacity, the net effect of aboli tion of the traffic distribution rules will be modest." Mr Rif-kind said. But over time, the decision is likely to lead to a higher proportion of long distance airline services at Heathrow with an increasing number of short haul services being diverted to Gatwick or the new

Stansted airport.
The government is reviewing slot allocation procedures and may consider introducing changes to encourage competi-

Opponents of the government's policy have argued that abolition of the rules would undermine Gatwick and Stansted and lead to even greater congestion at Heathrow. The government has come under intense lobbying from Conservative MPs in constitu-encies close to the three airports to maintain the status

fast-track was shaken in November when, in an indica-

tion of Congressional dissatis-

faction with the progress of the

Uruguay Round, 37 senators signed a resolution to with-

Opposition to the proposed

North American talks now

threatens to derail both sets of

talks and with them the

administration's entire trade

Fast-track opponents are

expected to wait as long as pos-

sible to bring the issue to s vote in hopes that the cuphoria over the Allied victory in the Gulf will have faded beneath

concerns about the economy.

draw the authority.

west Germans, and the slow-Congress pressed on trade talks extension Treuhand privatisation agency impeded the process. The presence of Mr Jens Odewald, Kaushof chief execu-

tive, as supervisory hoard chairman of the Treuhand, forwith Canada and Mexico, or Istration's Enterprises for the both.

Americas initiative, which mer East German goverment includes debt-for-nature swaps. body overseeing privatisation, apparently fuelled acrimony The administration's confi-dence over the renewal of its

between the players. The Treuhand eald yesterday that the three stores taken of DM165m (\$109m) in the short-term, and ahont DM600m over a longer period. The 9,200 jobs at the Centrums around the country remain secure. No figures were available concerning the price of

Karstadt, the largest of the west German department stores, is acquiring six Centrum locations, including trum locations, inclinding Dresden, Halle, Leipzig and Magdeburg, some of which belonged to Karstadt before the second world war. It takes on 4,200 staff, space of 50,400 square metres, and a turnover in the second half of 1990 estimated at DMSER. mated at DM355m

Kauthof, which had no properties in the area before the war, has bought stores in five towns, including Berlin and Rostock, and two properties in Chemnitz. With another location in Berlin bought a few weeks ago. Kaufhof has nearly as large an operation - floor space of 50,000 square metres and 4,000 new employees.

The smaller Hertie has just three Centrum stores but has already acquired another seven outlets including four medium-priced clothes shops in east Berlin.
All the stores have engaged

in co-operation agreements with various parts of the Cen-trum chain for some while, which have included deliveries of western goods, staff retraining and furnishing technical knowhow. Karstadt had delivered DM365m worth of goods since currency union last July.

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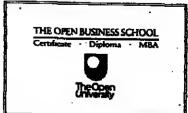
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UK plans big telecom changes

Continued from Page 1

ous figure was 4.5 per cent.

In addition, British Telecom, which controls 95 per cent of the UK market, has agreed to reduce the cost of international calls by 10 per cent, probably by June this year.

However for the moment the However for the moment the duopoly will remain in place for international services

BT is to be allowed to introduce discounts for large users. The company will also be permitted to increase the price of rental and connection charges for businesses with more than one line at a higher rate than

A scheme to help about 2m low users is to be created. The scheme will be particularly directed at the elderly and

WORLDWIDE WEATHER

Gorbachev pledges backing on Gulf

Continued from Page 1 brighter than for some time. We are agreed that all mem-bers of the permanent five (in

the Security Conncil) must continue to work together to ensure we find a satisfactory conclusion," he said.

"Our first agreed conclusion was that we had to take into account first and foremost the views of the states in the region, so that we might meet their concerns.

"In that context, I did not see

a standing British or western army (remaining in the Gulf). It is entirely possible that the Arabs themselves might have their own standing army."

Mr Major said both sides also agreed that it was desirable

that there should be "restraint in exports" of nuclear, chemi-cal and biological weapons to

the region, and "caution" in the export of conventional weapons. He received no Soviet guarantee that it would not reequip the Iraqi armed forces after their devastating defeat, however.

The Anglo-Soviet agenda also included British concerns over the slow progress in the conventional forces disarmament agreeement in Vienna and in particular, the Soviet move to reclassify army divi-sions as naval units. On that issue, Mr Major said he had a "most nseful exchange" with

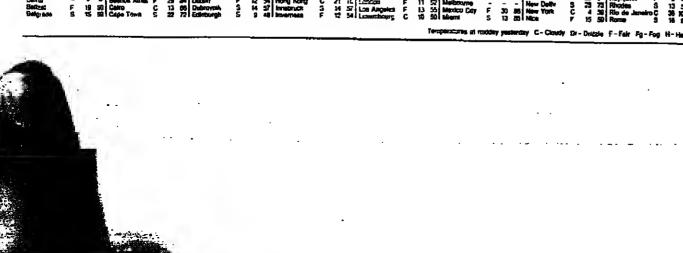
Marshal Dmitri Yazov, the Soviet defence minister, hut gave no hint of concessions.
Similarly, Mr Major gave no real idea about whether he was persuaded by Mr Gorbachev's continued commitment to eco-

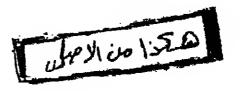
nomic reform, on which prog-

ress seems to have slowed drastically in the face of accelerating economic collapse.
Earlier in the day he met
Soviet radicals, including Mr
Anatoly Sobchak, the major of

Leningrad, and Mr Boris Fyo-dorov, the former Russlan finance minister, who argued that reforms had been stalled. Mr Fyodorov said the central government had no macro-economic reform plan, and no understanding at all of mone-tary policy – a subject close to Mr Major's heart.

The prime minister in turn expressed his conviction that private property, and private land ownership, were essential steps towards a market economy, although Mr Gorbachev is known to he ideologically opposed to outright private land ownership.





Renault takes the hard road



Falling car sales in Europe have hit Renault. the French state-owned car maker. The group is expected to announce a sharp drop in earnings last year to about FFr2bn (\$382m), com-pared with its record 989 profits of FFr9.3bn. The French motor group also saw its market

share drop to less than 10 per cent of the European car merket. George Graham reports. Page 20

Alusuisse plans share change Alusulsse-Lonza, the Swiss aluminium and chemicals group, yesterdey announced e 42.5 per cent fall in net profits to SFr268m (\$200m) and that it is to open its registered shares to toreigners investors. Nestle, Jacobs Suchard, Ciba-Gelgy end Brown Boveri have made similar moves in attempts to encourage foreign investment in Swiss companies. Page 20

Swamp fever



Searching for oil in the mangrove swamps of Nigeria, explorers are forced to wade through terrain with the smell and consistency of crude excramant. But the less than ideal conditions ere andured to achieve what has been hailed as a technological breakthrough. Three-dimensional seismic surveys heve

revealed millions of barrels of oil in reservoirs that had previously disturn dry. Page 32 27

Williams falls (4%)

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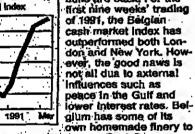
the market

الله عنيد

Files Pal 30

A mere 14 per cent fall in pre-tax profits was good news for the share price of Williams fioldings, the conglomerate which has just won its £404m (\$764m) taleover tad for Yale & Velor. The results for 1990 of £126.1m just beat the profit forecast of not less than £125m mada with the bid in January. Shares rose 2p to . 278p. Meggia Urry and Tim Dickson report.

Bulls in Brussels lace the market It looks like the Brussels hulls are back. For the first nine weeks trading Brussels SE General Index



show off. Andrew Hill reports. Back Page

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21 Newmont Australia: 24 Nine Network Austr 20 Northern Faather 21 Papelera Espanola: 26 Polygram 20 Pay 26 Polygra 26 Polypipe 20 Polypipe 21 Premier Haeco Hammerson Group

Chief price changes yesterday 551.5 + 16.5 363 + 13.1 195 + 12 275 + 10 325 + 10 - 100 - 80 - 130

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its first loss in 60 years

By Robert Taylor In Stockholm

VOLVO, the Swedish vehicle group and largest company in Scandinavia, suffered e SKr327m (\$57.5m) loss last year — after financiai items — it was announced yesterday.

This compares with a SKr6.65bn profit achieved in 1989 and is the first time in almost 60 years that the group has made an overall loss in its operations. In 1980 Volvo's car division made a deficit for the first and only time

until last year.

The company's chief executive officer, Mr Christer Zetterberg, said yesterday that Volvo had been one of the hardest hit of the world's auto companies in the current recession, because its main markets - the US, Britain and Sweden - had declined the

But he also emphasised that the company's restructuring pro-gramme would reduce costs by about SKr3bn by the end of this year. Further savings are also expected in 1992 and 1993.
At the time it announced its

third-quarter results, Volvo reserved SKr2.45bn to meet the non-recurring costs of the planned rationalisation. This fig-ure was included in its current financial accounts, making the overall position look worse than

The group's sales from SKr90.97bn in 1989 to SKr83.19bn in 1990. The return on capital employed fell from 13.8 per cent in 1989 to 4.4 per cent. Loss per share totalled SKr13.1 against a profit of SKr61.7 last

year. Volvo is proposing to pay a dividend of SKr15.5, the same as

The car division made an operating loss of SKr855m last year compared with a SKr1.94bn in 1989, while its sales fell by 8 per cent from SKr42.94bn in 1989 to SKr39.43bn in 1990. A total of 359,600 Volvo cars were delivered to cuatomers compared with 405,600 in 1989.

There was growth in the south-east Asian, German and Japanese markets, but this was insufficient to counter-balance the downturn lo Britain, the US and Sweden.

Volvo's trucks saw a 38 per cent drop in profits from SKr2.28bn in 1989 to SKr1.41bn due to lower sales and depressed margins. Sales fell 3 per cent from SKr24.86bn to SKr24.1hn. The company maintained an 11 per cent share of the world truck market, delivering 55,800 trucks. It hopes to hold its position this

Volvo's hus production suf-fered with a 72 per cent fall in profits from SKr240m in 1989 to SKr67m and a 7 per cent growth in sales from SKr3.68bn to SKr3.93bn. Volvo's engine division suf-

fered e fall in operating profits from SKr150m to SKr69m. Even its aerospace sector reported a sharp fall in profits from SKr306m in 1989 to SKr43m due to the lower exchange rate for the dollar, the high development costs for new engines and severe price competition in the US.

Werner Rey to retain control of Omni group

MR WERNER REY, the Swiss financier who controls Omni Holding, will retain primary responsibility for the debt-laden group, despite Monday's announcement that he had relinquished the post of managing director, AP-DJ reports from

Mr Juerg Neck, company spokesman, said Mr Rey would remain as chairman and would continue to negotiate with Lonrho over the possibility of the nternational trading conglomerate taking a stake in Omni.

On Monday, Omni said Mr Jean-Claude Vagnières would assume operational management of the company, which owns a

MR WERNER REY, the Swiss large number of shareholdings and investments. But Mr Neck said the press release had been

> suspended yesterday, given the "unclear informational situation". Trading has heen suspended since last Thursday. But the exchange said only "extraordinary events" would instifu a traite extraordinary extension of the justify a further extension of the

Meanwhile, the Zurich Stock Exchange said trading in Omni share and debt issues remained

Mr Neck said that Mr Vag-nieres will take up discussions with Swiss creditor banks.

Volvo suffers It's make or break for Timmer

Michael Skapinker reports on the man leading recovery efforts at Philips

o the sceptics who doubt that Philips is on the road to recovery, Mr Jan Tim-mer, the Dutch group's president, says: "You don't have to believe me just because of my big blue

reyes."
The difficulty for watchers of Philips is that they do not have much else to go on. Mr Timmer has not given much indication of how he intends to revive the for-tunes of Europe's largest elec-

tronies company.

Since taking over the presidency last July, he has announced the redundancy of one fifth of the company's employees. But be seems to be set against further radical action. such as the sale of the company's troubled computer and electronic components divisions.

In the group's home town of Eindhoven last week, Mr Timmer presented his first set of annual results: a record net loss of F14.2bn (\$2.4bn). The loss, after restructuring provisions of Fl 4.6bn, was expected.
The detailed breakdown, how-

ever, showed a further deteriora-tion in Philips' position over the

past year. The lighting division, previously one of the group's mainstays, recorded a 47 per cent fall in profits to F1418m.

Only Philip's consumer electronics business showed any progress. Partly boosted by last year's World Cup, which stimulated sales of television sets and video recorders, profits rose by 32 per cent to F11.7hn.

This, Philips' centenary year, should have been a happy time for the group. Nobody, however, is in the mood to celebrate. Mr Timmer denied rumours that up

Timmer denied rumours that up to half the group's Dutch employ-ees might lose their jobs. The anniversary, Mr Timmer said, would be marked "with the greatest possible reticence".

The same phrase could have been applied to Mr Timmer's response to questions in Eindhoven last week. He would not say whether he was trying to find a joint venture partner for Philips' components business. The division's losses fell from F1101m to Fillm, but competitive pres-sure and investment costs in the semiconductor industry are both increasing sharply.
Nor would be comment on

reports that Matsushita of Japan was to join Philips in developing the Digital Compact Cassette (DCC), which will play both conventional and higher fidelity tapes.
A Dutch journalist who

accused the reticent Mr Timmer of being paranoid was probably overdoing it. But that allegation and other, more delicately suspension. Trading is due to phrased variations on it - did resume in Omni issues on hring out the odd flash of the nature of the task Mr Timmer has taken on his ample shoulders. In particular, he made it



Jan Timmer, insisted that there was reason for optimism

plain that one of his priorities would be to restore the morale of the 240,000 employees who will remain when this year's job cutting is done

He made no apology for speaking to them first. Press inter-

views and public statements would have to wait. "First of all, I don't have the time. What must be done has to be done by thousands of people in the organisation. I don't think my ideas on the road the company has to travel should be publisbed in the newspapers before

they hear about it," Mr Timmer

tions such as what kind of com-pany Philips should be in the 1990s, he said. The task now was to produce profits by improving stock control and making employees more aware of the competitive market place.

to get the message to sink in. The willingness to change is not everywhere to be seen. It takes time to get people with you. If you try to do it by getting people

to obey orders, it doesn't work."
The picture be gave was of employees uncomfortably confronting the mistakes of the past. He could understand why Phil-ips' older staff felt particularly

uneasy with this process.
"It's not always possible for them to fathom what's in the minds of their superiors. I can minds of their superiors. I can imagine these feelings very well. But if you take the view that those involved can't change, everybody should resign," be

Mr Timmer insisted that there was reason for optimism. Turn-over of Fl 55.8bn in 1990 was only 3 per cent less than in 1989. 'Our customers remained loyal to Pbilips. Despite all the problems, Philips is still a resilient company." he said. "It's our opinion that this is a very satisfactory level of sales, considering what we've had to live with in the last few months." few months.

Philips was also managing its inventory more efficiently. Inven-tories at the end of 1990 repre-sented 20.7 per cent of sales, com-pared to 22.4 per cent the previous year. Further improvements would be made, Cash flow from operating activities was positive last year.

Above all, he said, the drive to

Above all, he said, the drive to make Philips more competitive had only just begun. "If we improve our profits, then all the rest will follow automatically. The goal we have in mind will be reached. I don't doubt that for one second," he said.

Mr Timmer's optimism, how-ever, appears at odds with the economic outlook, at least in the short term.

The prospects are grim in several of the group's important markets, such as the US, the UK and Brazil.

Philips also says there is evidence of a downturn in the con-sumer products sector, the only area in which the group is unequivocally successful.

Mr Timmer has promised a net

mr frimmer has promised a net profit this year, but the first two months of 1991 did not go well. Sales in January and February were Fi 7.4bn, 4 per cent down on the same period last year and five per cent below the group's expectations. It was the fall to expectations. It was the fall in first-quarter net income last year from Fi 223m to Fi 6m which precipitated the early retirement of Mr Cor van der Klugt, Mr Tim-mer's predecessor.

Was this year's first-quarter profit figure likely to be a similar shock? "You can imagine that I personally intensely hope that will not be the case," Mr Timmer said. "We have no indications

Even if the first-quarter results cated last week that he had limited time to produce results. If Philips was not restored to health hy 1992, he said, he would quit. Polygram results, Page 20

Elsevier forecasts 55% rise as Pearson sells holding

By Ronald van de Krol in Amsterdam, Raymond Snoddy and Antonia Sharpe in London

Kisevier, the Dutch publisher, yesterday unveiled a more than 55 per cent jump in provisional 1990 net profit to about F1500m (\$288.7m).

F1 2.90 or 3.7 per cent lower et stake in Pearson and says it does not plan to sell.

Yesterday's sale by Pearson marked an end to hopes for e merger between the two groups

Mr Pierre Vinken, the Elsevier chairman, will remain on the Pearson board. However, it is

The announcement came as Pearson, the UK publishing, banking and industrial group, revealed it had sold its 22.2 per cent stake in Elsevier for £313m (\$592m) to Goldman Sachs, the US investment house. Pearson bought the 14.3m Elsevier shares for £229m in 1988.

Despite the sharp rise in provisional profits - which was in line with expectations - Elsevier's shares fell steadily throughout the day. This eppeared to be largely the result of the Pearson placing. It was reported that Goldman Sachs offered the Pearson stake to mainly UK institu-tions at F174. The shares closed

which took stakes in each other in September 1988.

Lord Blakenham, chairman and chief executive of Pearson which owns the Financial Times
- said yesterday: "It (the Elsevier investment) has been e significant financial success. In strategic terms, the engagement has not resulted in marriege. It seemed sensible et this stage to

recognise that."

The proceeds from the sale will Elsevier, whose interests range from newspapers to acientific

reduce Pearson's net borrowing, which stood at £410m at the end of last year.

Pearson board. However, it is expected that Lord Blakenham and Mr Frank Barlow, Pearson's chief operating officer, will resign from the Elsevier board.

Lord Blakenham said yester-day a wide range of structures for a merger were looked at, including the pooling of publish-ing resources. No solution could be found that was acceptable to Elsevier was the most actively

traded share in Amsterdam yesterday, accounting for Fl 145.17m (\$84m) of the total market volume of FI 785.9m. Provisional Elsevier results,

Page 20; World stock markets, Back Page

Banks oppose Papelera debt deal

PAPELERA Espanola, Spain'a largest supplier of newsprint, yesterday suspended payments to its creditors after failing to reach agreement with principal bank-ers on rescheduling its debts, worth a total of Pta23.5hn (\$245m). Trading in the compa-ny's stock was suspended in Mad-rid.

The decision to seek protection from its creditors represents one of the most sarious corporate reversals since Spain dipped into a mild recession last summer, after five years of strong eco-

nomic growth.

It is understood that in a series of recent talks at least one of the company's main creditor banks, which include Barclays, Banco Bilbao Vizcaya, and at least two Basque savings banks, had strongly opposed pleas by Papelera to extend repayment of part of its Pta17.3bn short-term debt

by up to nine years. Mr Carlos Martinez Campos, president of Barclays in Spain, said the bank was owed Ptalbn by Papeiera and had initially insisted that half of that should be excluded from any rescheduling as the debt had already matured. But this demand had subsequently been dropped.
Papelera also owes Ptalhn to

BBV, but other bankers involved in the taiks said they had opposed extending the company's repayment period because that, according to one, "would have amounted to a suspension by

Analysts said the company has been caught in the middle of an expensive investment programma, involving e possible strategic withdrawal from newsprint by diversifying into tissue paper, where margins are higher. The company, which reported

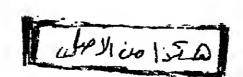
Pta780m last year after four years in profit, is also in the midst of a Pta50bn investment to build southern Europe's biggest newsprint mill in Navarra. A German partner has shown interest in the scheme but Papelera is voderstood to be considering reducing its participation in the mill, if it is built, to just 5 per cent. The Madrid stock exchange

said last night the Papelera shares could be quoted again but it would depend on financial information the company placed before the authorities. Papelera is a Basque company

and it is possible that, by appeal-ing to BBV's Basque roots and to the Basque savings banks, to whom it owes another Ptalbn, the company could negotiate a "Basque solution" that would save jobs in the depressed north-



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Elsevier forecasts 55% rise in 1990 net profits

publisher, has announced that provisional 1990 net profit has jumped by more than 55 per cent to around FI 500m

(\$238.7m)
The sharp rise is due largely to extraordinary profits arising from its sale last year of a 33 per cent stake in fellow publisher Wolters Kluwer.
The figures were released a month earlier than scheduled because of moves by Pearson.

because of moves by Pearson, the UK publishing, banking and industrial group which publishes the Financial Times, to seek huyers for its 22.5 per cent stake in Elsevier.

Elsevier, which in turn owns 9 per cent of Pearson, repeated yesterday that it has no plans dividend by F1 0.40 to F1 1.80.

Analysts said that Elsevier's net results contained an

to dispose of its half of the extraordinary gain of about to dispose of its half of the cross-holding.
Sales in 1990 rose by 5 per cent to Fl 2.05bn while trading income increased by 18 per cent to Fl 38sm. Operating profit after tax — which Elsevier regards as the best indication of its performance — was un 17 per cent et Fl 343m.

up 17 per cent et Fl 343m. The company emphasised that the figures were provi-sional because certain items, such as Pearson's final 1990 results, could only be estimated. It gave no indication whether it would raise its 1990

dividend. In 1989, Elsevier raised its

FI 150m on its sale last November of its Wolters Kinwer shares. Elsevier bought the shares in 1987 for FI 575m and sold them for around FI 800m

last year.
Part of the book profit of F1225m will be transferred to shareholders' equity to counterbalance the goodwill write-off in 1987, thereby reducwrite-off in 1987, thereby reducing the extraordinary gain.
Elsevier's shares fell hy F1250 to close at F174.90.
Analysts attributed the decline to Pearson's divestment and not to yesterday's results, which were in line with expectations. Final results for 1990 will be published on April 8.

would be restrictured and managed on the basis of four global business streams; motors; marketing and distri-hntion; services; and resources. Each would report to a London-based board direc-

Some of the businesses are

Sir George said he came under no pressure from insti-tutions or shareholders to split

defined.
Mr Mackay, 51, joined Inch-cape in 1986 from Chloride Group where he was responsi-ble for the overseas division. Previously he was chairman of Pakirans, the European trans-port division of Pakhoed Holding, the Netherlands chemical

fair trading said yesterdaythat his office had been informed of the proposal by Coats Viyella to acquire the Tootal Group which was announced on Mondey. It will formally consider the offer until

Inchcape to split top post in shake-up

INCHCAPE, the international services and marketing group, is to split the roles of chairman and chief executive, which have been held by Sir George Turnbull since

1886.
Sir George, 64, is expected to continue as chairman until 1697. The role of chief executive will be assumed by Mr Charles Mackay, who heads the group's Far East operation, Incheape Pacific.
Incheape Pacific.
Incheape also announced that from the beginning of next year the entirs group would be restructured and managed on the basis of four

currently organised on a global basis and others by country or region. Under the new system, marketing and distribution will be one worldwide business incorporating Inchcape's consumer, indus-trial, husiness machines, and wines and spirits busi-

his role.

However, while he considered the joint role had been right at a time of great strategic change, he felt it was less appropriate when the shape of the new business had been defined.

storage company.

• The UK director general of

World Cup album boosts PolyGram

Fisons meets expectations with £230.2m

By Michael Skapinker in London

carreras In Concert, recorded in Rome during the World Cup soccer finals and which sold over 5m copies last year, and by The Very Best of Elton John, which sold more than 4m.

About half the increase in calculations for the control of the control

sales came from newly acquired companies, including A&M Records, purchased in January 1990; and Island Records,

By Clive Cookson in London

FISONS yesterday met the market's high expectations by announcing 1990 pre-tax profits np 36 per cent to £230.2m (\$436.7m).

The UK pharmaceutical, hortical type 1 and colonials are continuously and colonials are the little type 1 and colonials a

The Uk pharmaceurcal, nor-ticultural and scientific equip-ment group said that growth in existing businesses was responsible for a 20 per cent increase in profits. VG Instru-ments — acquired in February 1990 — contributed the remain-ing 18 per cent

ing 16 per cent. Mr John Kerridge, chairman.

was in bullish mood at the results press conference. He looked forward to sustained

above average growth "throughout the 1990s", hoosted by promising new drugs in the development pipe-

POLYGRAM, the record company which is 80 per cent owned by Philips of the Netherlands, yesterday announced 1990 net income up 7.2 per cent to F1 357m (\$206m).

Turnover increased by 27.9 per cent to F1 5.250n, aided by the album Pavarotti, Domingo, Carrerss in Concert recorded.

Operating income increased by 29.1 per cent to F1590m, but net income was hit by a drop in interest earnings. Largely as a result of the loss of funds used for acquisitions, financial income fell from a gain of FI 58m in 1989 to a loss of FI 6m last year. PolyGram was also affected by the costs of reorganising its newly-acquired US businesses

all three Fisons divisions. Group sales rose by 18 per cent to £1.205bn. Earnings per share were up 20 per cent to 26.3p and the total dividend for the year was increased by 21 per cent to 2.5p.

cent to 7.5p. Some analysts had been con-

camed, before the results were announced, about the impact of the recession on the scien-tific equipment division, but Mr Kerridge said it turned out

to be virtually recession-proof, like the pharmaceutical business. The 2270m acquisition of VG Instruments from BAT

"has confirmed Fisons' best expectations" and turned the

group into the world's third largest scientific instrument

Earnings per share were up only I per cent to F1 2.10, diluted by the 10m additional shares issued when Philips floated 20 per cent of the music group on the Amsterdam and New York stock exchanges in December 1999. December 1989.

The gross dividend was F10.50, the company's first since its flotation.

Mr Alain Levy, PolyGram's president and chief executive. said the group had increased its share of the world music mar-ket from 15 per cent in 1989 to 17.5 per cent last year. The group was Europe's biggest record company with a market share of 28 per cent, but was

The horticultural business - closest to Fisons' historical

roots but now the smallest of the three divisions - pushed up sales to \$84m (£79m) and

profits to £10m (£8m). It flour-ished in spite of severe drought

in Europe and a consumer campaign against Pisons by environmentalists.

The pharmaceutical division

boosted its margins, with profits up 19 per cent-to £15im from £127m on a 6 per cent increase in sales to £501m from £473m.

Two respiratory (asthma) drugs, Intal and Tilade, account for one third of Fisons' pharmaceutical sales and both

Tilade is selling better in continental Europe than in the

are making good progress.

Mr Levy said that US market share had risen from 8.5 per cent to 10.2 per cent last year. He hoped to see an increase 10 14 per cent this year.

Mr Jan Cook, PolyGram's chief financial officer, said the company was still not profit, able in the US, although he said. that it would be by the end of

PolyGram had the advantage that 42 per cent of its unit sales were of compact discs, compared with 37 per cent for takindustry as a whole, Mr Cooksald. In 1989, 37 per cent of PolyGram sales had been COS in 1985, the figure was 10 per cent of the contraction of the contraction of the contraction of the contraction of the cent of the contraction of the cent of the contraction of the cent PolyGram had the advanta

and a new "mint flavoured"

version of the drug has helped-sales in Germany, where asthma patients objected to the drug's bitter tasts.

Approval of Tilade by the Food and Drug Administration in the US is "just around that

Fisons executives are enthresiastic about drugs which are likely to smerge from the development pipeline in four left ive years — in particular Tipredane, a new steroid treasured.

ment for respiratory disease. of Dr Peter Woods, corporate

off recer woods, conjunct analysis' claims that earnings' would suffer from a gap in the development programmer these reserved of the conjunction of these reserved of the conjunction o

before these new products reached the market in the sterior and half of the 1990s.

ond half of the 1990s. Lez, Page 18

Alusuisse plans share change

ALUSUISSE-Lonza, the Swiss aluminium and chemicals group, said yesterday that it plans to open its registered shares to foreigners investors, Reuter reports from Zurich. The company announced the move while releasing details of a 42.5 per cent fall in net profits to SFr268m (\$200m) and a

rise in the dividend. Foreign investors will be limited to holding 3 per cent of the registered shares. The company will also limit the voting rights of any single share-holder to 5 per cent of total votes and it will raise the quorum required for statute changes to three quarters of all votes represented at its annual shareholders' meeting.

Neetle, Jacobs Snchard, Ciba-Geigy and Brown Boveri have made similar moves in attempts to encourage foreign investment in Swiss compa-

Alusuisse's share capital at the end of 1990 was SF7582m, made up of 1.49hn registered shares with a nominal valoe of SFr125, 1.35bn bearer shares of SFr250 per value and 2.3hn SFr25 participation certificates. The bearers rose SFr40 to SF1,110 yesterday and the registered shares, valued on virtually the same p/e and yield bases, hy SF110 to SF7550.

Traders said the share price

rise was technically driven as the market pushed the bearer

with the registered stock, corresponding to the shares' nomi-nal values.

The parent company reported e 23 per cent rise in 1990 net profit to SFr133m, although the gronp's net dipped 42.5 per cent to Groop cash flow last year slipped 30.1 per cent to SFr656m, while sales dropped 10.6 per cent to SFr6.334bn.

SF15.3340m.

The parent company plans a dividend boost to SF735 a bearer share for 1990, up SF75 from the year before; to SF17.50 a registered share, up from SF715.00; and SF73.50 a participation certificate, up from SF73.

Esselte falls 75% and cuts its dividend

By John Burton in Stockholm

ESSELTE, the Swedish office products group, yesterday reported a 75 per cent fall in profits after financial items to SKr145m (\$25.4m) for 1990. The dividend payment was cnt from SKr8 per share to SKr5.25. Sales fell by 3 per cent to SKr16bn. But profits after extraordinary income rose to SKr1.6bn from SKr636m due to the sale last year of property holdings, printing operations and the Nordstedts publishing

company. The divestments, which netted a capital gain of SKr2.9bn, reflected Esselte's decision to concentrate on its core business area of office

Earnings fell as demand weakened in the company's biggest markets, the US, the UK and the Nordic region. Esselte is restructuring its operations, including cutting its workforce by 2,400, an 11 per cent reduction. This added

SKr749m in extraordinary costs to last year's results, which combined with costs associated with the complete takeover of its US subsidiary, Esselte Busi-ness Systems, reduced its extraordinary income to

Esselte predicted that the 1991 results would improve despite continued weak market demand since the restructuring programme will reduce operating costs.

Italian insurers unravel assets

Münchener Lebensversicher-

By Halg Simonian in Milan

GENERALI and Riunione Adriatica di Sicurta (RAS), lialy's first and second-biggest private sector insurance companies, are shuffling their assets in Austria in e long-awaited untangling of the complex cross-shareholdings in the local market.

The agreement, which still requires regulatory approval, will give RAS the majority stake in Wiener Alltanz Versi-cherung (WAV), currently held by Generali. Generali will also transfer a minority stake in Wiener Allianz Lebensversi-

By Xueling Lin in Copenhagen

RECEIVERS at Northern

Feather Holding, the Danish duvet, bedding and textile manufacturer which has debts estimated at DKr3.2bn (\$543m),

have given up e rescue attempt and declared the company bankrupt.
The receivers blamed the col-lapse of the rescue package on

the impatience of US bank creditors which have pressed for a bankruptcy declaration

since the holding company suspended payments in November last year following

the suicide of Mr Johannes Petersen, the company's execu-tive chairman. Sixty-nine for-

eign banks are owed money.
Denmark's two biggest
hanks, Unibank and Den
Danske Bank, have claims
totalling around DKr600m. In

contrast to the foreign banks, the two Danish banks, which

represent the biggest single claimants, agreed not to press their claims for the duration of the reconstruction at a credi-

The preliminary deficit in the main three companies,

Northern Feather Holding and Northern Feather Administra-

tion of Forvaltning in Denmark and Northern Feather Interna-

tional based in Holland, was estimated at over DKr6bn.

The Dutch holding company

was not covered by the Danish suspension of payments in

November last year when the collapse became public.

At its peak, the group hoasted a turnover of DKr26bn, with 45 production

and sales operations spread over the Far East, North Amer-

The group had also embarked on an expansion pro-

tors meeting in Decem

drugs in the development pipe-line.

Mr Kerridge said 1990 was a "highly satisfactory year" for tits from the division were \$67m

nies, rank among Austria's big-gest insurers, with 1996 premi-ums of Schebn (\$554m) and Sche.1hn. (including life) respectively. WAL, which oper-ates in the life sector, had pre-miums of Schl.9bn last year... The deal will marginally reduce Generali's passance in Anatria where it will remain

Receivers abandon rescue plan

at Northern Feather Holding

as well as control of two small foothold in Germany. Mean-German insurance companies; while, RAS will raise its total Austrian premium income to Schöbn from Schölbn now. The deal should also provide Generali and RAS with sub-stantial capital gains as asset values in the companies chang-ing hands are brought up to munchener Lebensversicher-ung and Interunfall Allge-meine Versicherung.

Both WAV and Interunfall-RAS, which are quoted compa-

Analysts said the transaction would also serve to meet the wishes of Austrian regulators, who have wanted to simplify the complex cross-shareholding structure of certain big-domest Wiener Allianz Lebensversicherung (WAL) to RAS.
In return, RAS is giving
Generali its majority stake in
Interunfall-RAS Versicherung,

The deciration of the country's biggest insurer tors may also have sought RAS to dispose of some of its German activities following its ung, while giving it a further

Renault expects fall; in earnings

By George Graham .

RENAULT, the French state-owned car maker, is expected to report a sharp drep in earnings last year to around FFr2bn (\$382m), compared with its record 1989 profits not FFr9.3bn.

With car sales declining throughout Europe, the French metor group lost market share in many of its areas of activity; dropping to less than 10 pet cent of the European car mar-ket.

In the trucks and heavy vehicles sector, Renault main-tained its market share but in addition, it is understood to have had to make continued, heavy restructuring provisions at Mack, the US trucks con-

pany of which it has now taken full control. The depression in the Latin American economy, too, fias hit Renault's Argentinian suit

sidiary, which is expected to have recorded around FFribat of losses last year. Earnings will also like depressed by the poor perfoli meace of the French group's 28

per cent stake in Volvo, the Swedish car maker. Renault's results are not due to be published for some weeks, and the company yes. terday refused to commentson the reports, which base emerged from Renault officials at the Geneva motor show, in.
The French company's sales

have continued to suffer in the first two months of this year and it has been obliged to lay off workers. Registration statistics published yesterday by the French

vehicle manufacturers' associa-tion ehowed Renault's sales had dropped by 28 per cent last month compared with the same month of 1989.

Citroen, Renault'e domestic rival, suffered e 31 per cent sales drop in February, but for-eign car brands saw their sales fall only 9 percent.

Kemira falls to FM139m

By Enrique Tessieri m Heleinki

KEMIRA, the Finnish state owned fertiliser, paint state-owned terthiser, paint, and titanium dioxides group; reported a drop in consolidated profits before appropriations and taxes during 1990 to FM139m (\$37.45m), against

FM315m the previous year.

Operating income before depreciation fell to FM1.66bn from FM1.68bn and accounted for 14.6 and 15.3 per cent of net sales respectively. Consolidated sales rose by 3 per cent to FM11.4bn.

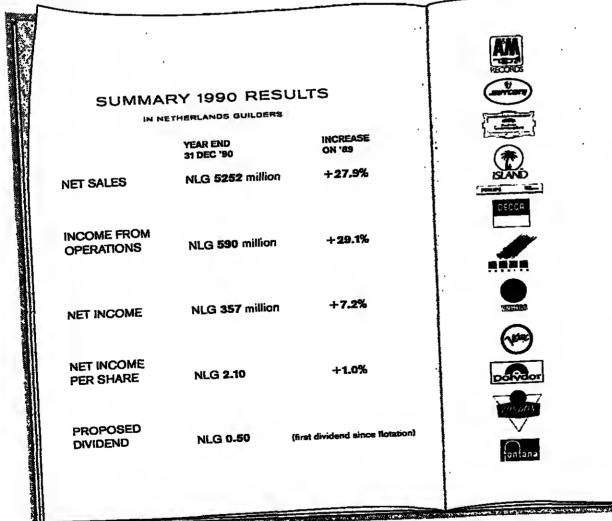
Kemira blamed the drop in profitability on rationalisation and the recession.

Correction -

Trelleborg

THE first paragraph in yesterday's article on Treffe borg, the Swedish mining aid mdustrial group, should have stated that the company lifted its dividend despite a 16 per cent fall in profits to SKr2.3bn

POLYGRAM IS A HIT ON CD. TAPE. VINYI VIDEO AND PAPER.



PolyGram NV's shares are listed on the Amsterdam and New York stock exchanges. In 1990 the group achieved its sixth consecutive year of growth. PolyGram's full

GERRIT VAN DER VEENLAAN 4.

3743 DN BAARN, HOLLAND.

results are published in its annual report addresses below:

which will be sent to registered shareholders on 2 April, 1991. If you would like a copy, write to: The investor Relations

Department, PolyGram NV, at any of the

30 BERKELEY SQUARE LONDON

WIX 5HA, UNITED KINGDOM,

PolyGram

WORLDWIDE PLAZA, 625 EIGHTH AVENUE,

NEW YORK, NY 10019, USA.

Carrefour up 14% CARREFOUR, the French

supermarket group, has lifted annual net profit by 14 per cent after payments to minority interests, to FFr1.35bn (\$254m) in 1990 from FFr1.18bn the previous year, AP-DJ reports from

ica and Europe.

Consolidated revenue was 8 per cent higher at FFr75.8bn, from FFr/0.14bn. Earnings per share were up 14 per cent to FFr211.48 from FFr184.91. The 1991 net dividend will be FFr65 a share, up 8.3 per cent from the 1990 level.

the second residence of the second se

DFDS profits cut by half

Johannes Petersen: committed suicide in November

gramme, a key element being

the acquisition of Chatham Manufacturing Company of the US in 1968. Two weeks ago, the receivers expressed optimism over the reconstruction. The

rescue package involved sal-vaging the sound parts of the group's operation, with the

reconstruction centred around Northern Feather Textiles and

Northern Feather Bed and Home Fittings of Denmark. Pressure from foreign bank creditors to have the Dutch

holding company declared bankrupt combined with lack

of time (the original reconstruction period granted by the courts expired last month)

have forced the receivers to give up their rescue attempt. Foreign bank creditors are

expected to have to settle for 10 per cent of their claims, while

DFDS. Danmark's second largest shipping line by turnover, showed a drop in net profits to DKr94m (\$16m) for 1990 compared with DKr189m

for the previous year, writes
Xueling Lin in Copenhagen.
The shipping line which is
best known for its passenger
arm, Scandinavian Seaways,
hamed the struct Penjek broblamed the strong Danish kro-ner and the high price of oil in the second half-year for the

Scandinavian Seaways was hard hit by the downturn in

passenger figures after the disaster on the Scandinavian Star passenger ferry, owned by the Danish Da-No Ferry, in which 158 passengers lost their lives in April last year.
The loss related to the disaster is estimated at

the Danish banking creditors will be harder hit with an

expected 1 per cent. Sharehold-ers are not expected to receive anything while unsecured creditors will receive between

one and 10 per cent in the

three key companies.

Our Financial Staff adds:

After Mr Petersen's suicide on November 17 last year, the company's receivers revealed

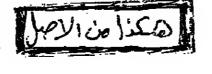
some highly creative bookkeeping, which turned a large loss

for the year ended in March 1990 to a sizable profit.

The group's collapse was precipitated by reports that three international textile companies which, according to Mr

Petersen, were investing in Northern Feather International as part of a strategic alliance, had not, in fact, agreed to buy

In general, DFDS reported satisfactory results for the pas-senger division, with a 3 per cent overall increase in passen-gers and the successful completion of renewal programme for the ferry fleet.



By Bernard Simon in Toronto

AY MARCH

had risen for local to lead to see out to see an income this part

Jan Cook, Post inancial office in the US, although would be by the ar.

Gram had the sheet of the sheet

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A SHARP rise in loan losses and non-performing loans pul-led Royal Bank of Canada's first-quarter earnings down by 15 per cent, more than offsetting higher interest income from the US and other international operations

Net earnings of North America's third biggest bank fell to C\$232m (US\$200m), or 70 cents share, in the three months to inuary 31, from C\$274m, or 86 cents, a year earlier. Return on common equity dropped to 15.3

Rainbow pays

RAINBOW Chickens, South

RAINBOW Chickens, South Africa's largest chicken producer, is to buy the hroller operations of a rival chicken business, Bonny Bird, and a 50 per cent stake in Epol, an animal feed business, at a total frost of R244m (\$94m).

Bonny Bird is 50 per cent owned by Premier group, a leading player in the food industry, which is now divesting Itself from the highly competitive chicken market where it has struggled to make good profits. The balance of Bonny Bind is held by Bokomo and Saeca, two co-operatives in the

Sacca, two co-operatives in the

Cape.

- Premier will retain a 50 per
- Premier will retain a 50 per

cent stake in Epol but Rain-bow will have management

Rainbow is paying R224m for Bonny Bird, in instalments

over three years. The 50 per cent stake in Epol will cost a further R20m. The group intends to raise R244m in a

The Bonny Bird acquisition

increases Rainbow's share of the broiler industry from 35 to

over 50 per cent. The white meat market in South Africa

has shown 8 to 10 per cent volume growth over the past 20 years, most of this at the

expense of beef with per capita consumption of the two now

broadly equal. Mr John Geoghegan, group

managing director of Rainbow, also noted that the deal gave

the company "major influence on both the quality and effi-cient production of feed which

comprises 85 per cent of live

bird production costs".

"Mr Peter Wrighton, Pre-mier's chairman, said: "Pre-

mier's long-standing underper-forming assets have now been

tained to good account and we

will be participating in the

dynamic growth of the excit-

ing new feed developments."

The construction or purchase of feed wills in future

will form part of a joint ven-

ture between the two compa-

win the six months to Decem

yer, Rainbow achieved a turn-byer of R354.5m with operat-

HK Electric in

Fobust growth'

with 12.7% rise

MONGKONG Electric Holdings: the monopoly supplier of velectricity to Hong Ring Island which is controlled by Mr Li Ka-shing's Mutchison Whampos group, yesterday approunced profits of HK\$1.95bn (US\$250m) for the gear ended December 31 after tax and transfers to a government scheme of control writes

ment scheme of control, writes John Elliott in Hong Kong. S. This was 12.7 per cent

higher than 1989's results.

Surnover rose 15.6 per cent to YK\$4.33hn in what Mr Simon

Murray, chairman, described as a "year of robust growth" for Hongkong Electric, the

main operating company.

"Electricity unit sales increased by 7.6 per cent and maximum demand reached a record of 1,613Mw, 4.7 per cent

record of 1,010m, 17 per case ingher than 1989.

"The company's primary fuel tacoal, which insulates it from the impact of oil price

The final dividend is recom-

The final dividend is recom-mended at 38 cents per share. Together with an interim of 23 cents this makes 61 cents for the year.

BankAmerica

Corporation

Cir. U.S.\$400,000,000

Ploating Rate Subordinated in Capital Notes Due 1997

Holders of Notes of the above Issue the hereby notified that for the next

the hereby noticed that to see hereby noticed that hereby the period from 7th March, 1794 to 8th April, 1991 the ribliowing will apply 137 thereast Phymners Date: 7th Let June, 1991.

12. Flate of Interest for Sub-period:

interest Amount psyable for Sub-period: US\$308.33 per US\$50,000 nominal

. Accumulated interest Amount

5. Next Interest Sub-period will be from 8th April, 1991 to 8th May,

payable: US\$308:33 per US\$50,800 nominal.

Benk of America International Limited

Agent Bank

.6.9375% per annum.

lag profit of R30.8m.

rights offer.

R224m for

Bonny Bird

By Philip Gawith

in Johannesburg

per cent from 21.1 per cent, while return on assets slipped to 0.71 per cent from 0.92 per

The bank said it has raised its estimate of fiscal 1991 loan losses to C\$560m, a third higher than last year's write-offs. As a result, first-quarter provisions were C\$140m, up from C\$80m a year earlier.

By Kevin Brown in Sydney

NINE Network Australia, the

quoted television channel which is 52 per cent owned by Mr Kerry Packer's Consoli-

dated Press Holdings

(Conspress), yesterday reported

net profits of A\$13.82m (US\$10.73m) for the six months

to December - but no interim dividend - and forecast pre-tax profits of more than A\$105m

The result was in sharp con-trast to the network's fortunes under its former owner, Mr

Alan Bond's Bond Corporation Holdings, which sold the com-

pany to Conspress last June. Nine Network made net profits of A\$330,000 in the first half

of last year and declared a net

loss of A\$2.97m for the full

year, which increased to

A\$619m after Conspress decided to write down the value of the network's broad-

By John Elliott in Hong Kong

HONG KONG Alreraft

Engineering Company (Haeco).

the aircraft maintenance

specialist controlled by the Swire Pacific group and its Cathay Pacific Airways subsid-iary, yesterday reported a 4.9

per cent increase in after-tax profits to HK\$289.4m (US\$37.1m) for the year ended

December 31 after its turnover and labour costs were hit by

emigration of key engineering

This follows an 8 per cent drop in profits in the first half

of last year and compares with

an 18.6 per cent profits

Turnover was 10.6 per cent up at HK\$1.60bn last year com-

MUTUAL and Federal (M&F). South Africa's largest

short-term insurer, reported

lower profits in the six months to December following a sharp

Attributable profits fall to R446m (US\$17.2m) from R47m. This was largely due to the decline in underwriting profits to R3.5m from R14.9m.

to R3.5m from R14.9m,
Mr Ken Saggers, managing
director, noted that the industry continued to be adversely
affected by aggressive competition, with premium levels inadequate for the risks covered.
He said that total claims had

drop in underwriting surplus.

staff.

increase in 1989.

By Philip Gawith .

for the full year.

Non-performing loans, exclu-ding those to Third World debtors, stood at C\$1.7bn at the end of January, more than double the level of C\$784m a year ear-

Mr Allan Taylor, the bank's chairman, sald; "Although we've not escaped the effects of the current recession, we're weathering it well. Canadian banks have gener-

ally had more conservative lending policies than their US counterparts in recent years, and have benefited from their wide geographic and strong RBC's ratio of capital to

The improved profit was a surprise, because Mr Packer

annual report that the net-work's cash flow and profits

would not begin to improve

until the 1991-92 financial year,

loon, finance director, said the network's financial position

was improving quickly. He forecast profits before interest

and tax of between A\$105m and A\$111m for the full year

unless the advertising market

worsened sharply.
"We have achieved a reason-

able result in extremely diffi-cult times, but I wouldn't get

carried away," Mr Falloon said. He added that "a big revamp of the network carried out by

management installed by Con-spress had resulted in substan-tial cuts in operating costs.* The network sald it had

pared with a 20 per cent rise in

During the past year, Haeco

has lost about 120 of its 800 highly-skilled engineers to

Hong Kong's brain drain of ethnic Chinese people who are

leaving the colony to find passports abroad, especially in

Australia and Canada. Tha

total for the past two years

it was expanding its potential capacity by purchasing a 29 per cent stake in Asta Aircraft Services, an Australian govern-ment-owned company located

naar Geelon in the state of

Victoria, This ends Haeco's search in the UK, Canada and

Mutual and Federal falls to R44m

escalated sharply due to many

large fires, heavy storms and an unprecedented increase in

the frequency of crime-related

M&F did well to record an underwriting surplus, an achievement most competitors

failed to match. The vast bulk of profits came from invest-

ment income, which stayed vir-

tually constant at R55m. Mr Saggers said this was the result of a shift from interest

bearing to equity investments as well as static dividend flows

and reduced cash flows from

Against this background,

Last week, Haeco announced

However, Mr Nicholas Fnl-

which begins in June.

earlier anticipated in the

assets, currently at 8.1 per cent, exceeds the 1992 target set by the Bank for International Settlements. Assets have grown by almost 11 per cent in tha past year to C\$130.8bm.

Net interest income rose by 5.8 per cent in the latest quarter to C\$931.6m. Income from domestic loans was stagnant, but international business was boosted by higher loan volumes in the US, lower non-performing loans and a jump in

payments from Venezuela. Surprise profit at Nine Network

reduced debts to A\$320m from

A\$690m when it was acquired

by Conspress, and expected to

owe less than A\$200m on com-

pletion of a A\$169m equity cap-

Ital raising being carried out

by Conspress and Australian Consolidated Industries

(ACIL), its two main sharehold-

The capital raising will

reduce Conspress's holding in Nine to 38 per cent. ACIL, for-merly Bell Resources, will

reduce its stake from 30 per

they will not reduce their hold-ings any further.

Both companies have sald

Mr Falloon said the network

expected to increase its share

of the television advertising

market to more than 40 per cent following recent negotia-tions with advertising agen-

elsewhere for an overseas acquisition to help ease capac-ity constraints at its base on Hong Kong's Kai Tak airport. Mr Peter Sutch, chairman,

said that the year's rasults were "encouraging, bearing in

mind the conditions under

second half of the year follow-

ing a scaling down of over-

highly-skilled work which car-ried high profit margins.

is being recommended. Together with a 22 cent

interim, this makes a total for

underwriting activities.

Net premium income increased by nearly 30 per cent to R453.4m from R349.5m, approximately half of this figure being due to the acquisition of Varianta Employees.

tion of National Employers, a

- the ratio of net assets to net

healthy and was about 110 per

cent at the end of December. Earnings per share declined from 101 cents to 96 cents, but

the dividend was increased by 25 per cent from 16 cents a

The group's solvency margin

short-term insurer.

A final dividend of 54 cents

Profits had improved in the

ds and the introduction of

which we were operating

cent to 21.6 per cent.

Tha company is in talks with 38 banks, led by Manufacturers Hanover, to replace its existing \$2.6bn line of credit with one of about

talks to

replace

credit line

By Martin Dickson

in New York

with its banks.

would be smaller than the existing one, it would not impose such onerous financial performance ratios on the

Chrysler, which has not drawn down any of the \$2.6bn line, might face difficulty meeting its financial performance criteria if the current slump in the US motor industry were to continue.

The company, smallest and weakest of the big three US

lysts by making a modest profit in the fourth quarter of last year, but it expects a large loss in the current quarter.

One-off charge hits Newmont

Newmont Australia, 23 per cent owned by Broken Hill Proprietary, reported a strong rise in net profit to A\$47.7m before extraordinaries for 1990 from A\$9.95m in 1989.

But Newmont, Australia's biggest pure gold mining com-

nnderpinning of revannes from its substantial gold hedging programme which now covers 1.8m ounces, leads to encouraging expectations for earnings in the present year," Newmont said. Gold production for the year

for Newmont, which has interests in eight mines in the Northern Territory and New

CHRYSLER, the US motor manufacturer which has suffered a reduction of its credit ratings helow investment grade, is trying to negotiate more flexible lines of credit

Although the new line

motor manufacturers, has recently seen the credit ratings on its deht reduced to junk bond level, making it very expensive for it to borrow in the public debt markets. The group surprised ana-

Australia

Reuter reports from Melbourne.

production projections and the

Notices were sent to Warramholders on 13th February 1991. This advertisement therefore appears as a matter of record only.

To the holders of Warrants in

GT CHILE GROWTH **FUND LIMITE**

SUBSCRIPTION RIGHTS

- 1. On 1st May 1991, Warrants become exerciseable to subscribe for the Ordinary Shares of the Company.
- 2. The subscription price is US\$10.00 per Share. At 1st March 1991 the middle market price, according to the Stock Exchange Daily Official List, was US\$11.75.
- 3. Warrantholders must inform the Custodians of their Warrant Certificates as to their intentions and instruct them to send the completed certificates to the Registrar of the Company at the address below by 2nd April 1991 at the latest.
- Subscription monies are due on application and should be paid as follows: Bank of Bermuda (New York) Limited,

350 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10022, USA. via CHIPS ABA 991

F/O The Bank of Bermuda Limited, Hamilton, HM11, Bermuda U.I.D. No. 5584

for further credit to GT Chile Growth Fund Account No. 0213504 Attention: David T. Smith

- 5. In the event of the loss of a Warrant written application should be made as soon as possible to the Registrar of the Company for a letter of indemnity for completion and return by the Warrantholder,
- 6. Ordinary Shares issued on the exercise of subscription rights will be allotted not later than 15th May 1991, effective from 1st May 1991. Warrants for any balance of subscription rights will be dispatched by 29th May 1991.
- The Company will apply to The Council of the Stock Exchange for new shares to be admitted to the Stock Exchange Daily Official List not later than 15th May 1991. 8. New shares will rank pari passu with existing shares in all respects after 1st May
- 9. Similar subscription rights will arise normally on the first business days in:

position should consult their professional advisers.

European Income & Growth Fund

Management Company

Fonds Commun de

45, rue des Scillas Howald - Luxembourg

R.C. Luxembourg B 29812

it was resolved that a dividend in respect of the year ending 31 January 1991 at the rate of 50 cents per share be and is hereby declared psyshle on 15 Llarch 1991 to share-holders of the European Income 5 Growth Fund registered at the close

KAWASAKI STEEL

CORPORATION

JP\10,000,000,000

For the 6 months period 5th March, 1991 to 5th September, 1991, the Notes bear the Interest rate at 1,0089%. IP¥10,089 will be payable from 5th September, 1991 per IP¥1,000,000 principal amount of Notes.

Yomaichi International (Europe) Limited, Agent Bank

KANSALLIS - OSAKE -

PANKKI

JP¥10.000.000.000

Rate Notes Due 1991

Rate Notes Due 1981
For the 6 months period 5th
March, 1991 to 5th September, 1991, the Notes bear the
interest rate at 1.0714% per
ronnum. JP¥10,714 will be
payable from 5th September,
1991 per JP¥1,000,000 prin-

cipal amount of Notes. Yamaichi International (Europe) Limited, Agent Bank

rdinated Reverse Floating

ount of Notes.

The Board of Directors

ed at the close

November 1991, Msy 1992, October 1992. 10. The exercise of warrants will constitute an acquisition of securities for the purposes of capital gains tax. Shareholders who are in doubt as to their taxation

David T. Smith, Secretary. Registered Office: The Bank of Bermuda Limited, Bank of Bermuda Building, 6 Front Street, Hamilton, HM11, Bermuda.

Key staff exodus checks Haeco

NEWMONT Australia was forced to account for an axtraordinary loss of A\$257.5m (US\$200m) in the year to December 31, primarily because of its acquisition of fellow gold miner BHP Gold,

pany, sald adjustments required by Australian accounting standards resulted in a "fair value" reduction of A\$253.5m to the value of the assets of BHP Gold. Newmont said tha adjust-

ment did not reflect its view of the valua of BHP Gold, which was still carried "This adjustment does not

impair the company's cash flow, future earnings or dividend capacity.
"The company's strong gold

Sonth Wales, exceeded 365,000 ounces in 1990. Newmont Australia said It

plans to change its name to Newcrest Mining, reflecting the reduced holding of its founding shareholder New-

JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT COMPANY LIMITED (Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa) Registration No. 01/00429/06 DIVIDEND NO. 130 ON SHARE WARRANTS TO BEARER

Pursuant to the notice published on 31st January 1991 holders of share warrants to bearer are informed that payment of the above dividend will be made at the rate of exchange of 1 rand equals 20.325203p on or after 18th March 1991 upon surrender of coupon no. 131 to Berclays Bank Pic, Stock Exchange Services Department, 168 Fenchurch Street, London EC3P 3HP. Amount per

(U.K., currency) 0.9723

7.5643

e al in is p as

p. of

Δt

Gross amount of dividend declared Less; South African non-resident reholders tax @ 11.39% Amount payable where a UK Inland

Revenue declaration is lodged with coupons Less; United Kingdom Income Tax

@ 13.61% on the gross dividend (See notes 1 and 2 below) Amount payable where coupons are lodged without a U.K. Inland Revenue declaration

1.1618 8,4025

Coupons must be fisted on forms obtainable from Barcleys Bank Pic and deposited for examination on any week-day (Saturday excepted) at least seven deposited for examination on any mounted.

99, Bishopsgate, LONDON EC2M SXE.

BARNATO BROTHERS LIMITED Mrs. A.F. Smith

NOTES: (1) The gross amount of the dividend for use for United Kingdom Income and

(2) Under the Double Taxation Agreement, between the United Kingdom and the Republibitio of South Africa, South African Non-Resident Shareholders' Tax applicable to the dividend is allowable as a credit against the United Kingdom Tax payable in respect of the dividend. The deduction of tax at the reduced rate of 13.51% instead of at the standard rate of 25% represents an allowance of credit at the rate of 11.39% in respect of South African Non-Resident Shareholders' Tax.

SA mines poised for streamlining

By Philip Gawith

LONG-EXPECTED streamlining of the Barlow Rand group's mining activities looks as if it may soon become reality. The group yesterday announced that it was "considering a reorganisation of certain interests within its mining and mineral beneficiation division.

In a related announcement, Barplats Mines, the platinum arm of Rand Mines, the group's mining subsidiary, announced that negotiations had been started with an interested party which could result in the rationalisation of the operations of Barplats Mines. Neither announcement is unexpected. Mining and Min-eral beneficiation (npgrading) accounted for a third, or R286m (US\$110m), of the Barlow group's attributable profit in the year to September, down from 45 per cent, or R450m, a year earlier.

Mr Warren Clewlow, chief executive, announced then that "action is being taken to streamline the mining division in order to enhance its contribution to earnings and to posi-tion it according to its strengths and weaknesses".

He also said ways were being examined of reducing the effect

Ameritech explores plan

to issue own credit card

of the cyclicality of the performance on group earnings of Middelhurg Steel and Alloys, the wholly-owned ferro-alloys and stainless steel subsidiary. Attributable profit dropped to R52m in 1990 from R216m in 1989.

On the platinum side, Rand Mines is desperately trying to make the expensive Crocodile River plathnum mine profit-able. Last year, it shut its Vansa vanadium operation and mothballed the Kennedy's Vale platinum mine. Rationali discussions probably relate to a disposal of the latter two

10 consortia bid

TEN investment consortia

The government hopes to raise US\$1.2bn with the sale, which amounts to an indirect form of privatisation. YPF will retain a 50 per cent share in each of the four oilfields, each of which will be run by a different consortium under a 25-

the local market, produced 137,500 harrels of oil per day, and 48.6m cubic metres of gas

privalisation process that began last year with the US\$242m sale of YPF's mar-

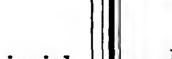


Floating Rate Notes due 1995

6th March, 1991 to 6th September, 1991

In accordance with the provisions of the Notes, notice is hereby given that the rate of interest has been fixed st 6.95 per cent. oer annum, and that the interest payable on the interest payment date, 6th September, 1991 against Coupon No. 6 will be Yen 3,503,562 per

The Industrial Bank of Japan, Limited Agent Bank



Building Society Japanese Yen 10,000,000,000

For the six months

Yen 100,000,000 Note.



BARCLAYS OVERSEAS INVESTMENT COMPANY B.V.

U.S.\$350,000,000 Guaranteed Floating Rate Notes due 2004

Notice is hereby given that the Rate of Interest for the Interest Period from 6th March 1991 to 6th September 1991, is 7.00 per cent. per annum and that on 6th September 1991 the amount of interest payable in respect of each U.S.\$5,000 principal amount of the Notes will be U.S.\$178.89.

> Barclays de Zoete Wedd Limited Agent Bank

AMERITECH, the Chicago based baby Bell that operates in five mid-western states, is exploring a plan to issue its own credit card. The cord would resemble of fees and interest charges for the company, which besides its telephone utilities sells cellular phone services, voice mail (per

By Barbara Durr in Chicago

The card would resemble
AT&T's successful Universal card, which can be used for phone calls as well as general

Ameritech said it had not yet

made a decision to go ahead. But should it do so, it would probably be the first of the regional Bell companies to enter the credit card busi-According to local reports, the card would be an "affinity" card from Visa or MasterCard issued by a bank or financial institution, but with institution, but with the Ameritech logo. Ameritech

would offer the card to its 12m customers in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin. The credit card could generate new revenues in the form telephone directories.
Since AT&T introduced its

Universal card in March 1990,

nearly 5m accounts have been • KeyCorp, the Albany, New York based multi-regional bank holding company with more than 570 banking offices in eight states, has filed for an offering of up to 4m common charse through underwriters.

led by Salomon and Montgomery Securities, Renter reports from Albany.

The company, which had assets of \$19.3bn at December 31 1990, said proceeds would be used to repay \$80m of floating rate debt and for general corpo-

shares through underwriters

for Argentinian fuel resources

have submitted hids to operate four hig oil and gas fields owned by Yacimientos Fiscales Petroliferos (YPF), the Argentinian oil company, writes John Barham in Buenos Aires.

year management contract. The four areas have measured oil reserves of 221.6m barrels and 4.4bn cubic metres of natural gas. Lasi year, YPF, which conirols 60 per cent of

per day.
This is the second leg of a ginal oilfields.





Series A due December 1997 In accordance with the provisions of the Notes, notice is hereby given that for the three months Interest Period from March 6, 1991 to June 6, 1991 the Notes will carry an Interest Rate of

Collateralized Floating Rate Notes

7.3125% per annum. The interest payable on the relevant payment date, June 6, 1991 will be U.S. \$1,868.75 per U.S. \$100,000 principal smount of Notes.

By: The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A. London, Agent Bank

March 6, 1991

CHASE



Kingdom of Denmark

U.S.\$ 37,500,000 Floating Rate Notes due 1995 In accordance with the terms and conditions of the Notes,

notice is hereby given that for tha interest period from February 28, 1991 to August 28, 1991. the Notes will carry an interest rate of 6.975 % per annum. The interest payable on the relevant interest payment date, August 28,1991 against coupon no 13 will be U.S.\$ 35,068.75 for each Note of U.S.\$ 1,000,000 and

U.S.\$ 17,534.38 for the Note of U.S.\$ 500,000.



Agent Bank KREDIETBANK S.A. LUXEMBOURGEOISE

IRA. the service of the service of a dry in the service of the ser :lleborg

February, 1991



JRC Japan Radio Co., Ltd.

U.S.\$100,000,000

4½ PER CENT. NOTES DUE 1995 WITH WARRANTS

ISSUE PRICE 100 PER CENT.

The Nikko Securities Co., (Europe) Ltd.

DKB International Limited

Credit Saisse First Boston Limited

Bank of Tokyo Capital Markets Group

Kankaku (Europe) Limited

Credit Lyonnais Securities

LTCB International Limited

Wood Gundy Inc.

Paribas Capital Markets Group

Baring Brothers & Co., Limited

Dresdner Bank Aktiengesellschaft

Goldman Sachs International Limited

Tokyo Securities Co. (Europe) Limited

Nomura International

Fuji International Finance Limited

Mitsubishi Finance International plc

Barclays de Zoete Wedd Limited

Bayerische Landesbank Girozentrale

Dai-ichi Europe Limited

Robert Fleming & Co. Limited

Hyundai Securities Co., Ltd.

Morgan Stanley International

J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited

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American Depositary Receipt (ADR) Programme

S. G. Warburg Securities

NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF



THE DOWA FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED

Bearer Warrants (th "Warrants to subscribe for shares of Common Stock of The Dowa Fire and Marine Insurance Company, Limited issued in conjunction with an issue of

U.S. \$70,000,000 4-% per cent. Notes 1993 Forsuant to Clause 3 and 4 of the Instrument dated 25th February, 1988 under which the above Warranta were issued, notice is hereby given as follows:

L. On 26th February, 1991, the Bourd of Directors of the Company resolved to make a free distribution of shares of its Common Stock to shareholders of record as of 31st March, 1991 in Japan at the rate of 0.05 new share for each share held.

Accordingly, the subscription price of the Warrants will be adjusted effective 1st April.
 The subscription price in effect prior to such adjustment is Yen 755.30 per share of Common Stock, and the adjusted subscription price is Yen 719.30 per share of Common Stock.

THE DOWA FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED By: The Bank of Tokyo Trust Company
as Disbursement Agent

Dated: March 6, 1991

NOTICE TO HOLDER OF NI-CAL FINANCE N.V. FOR CONVERSION DEBENTURES INTO SHARES OF COMMON STOCK OF NYCAL CORPORATION

You are hereby advised that at meetings of the holders of the outstanding 9% Convertible Redeemable Debentures due August 15, 1988 of Ni-Cal Finance N.V., an extraordinary resolution and the exercise of certain powers by the Debenture Holders was carried providing that the Debentures shall be converted into shares of \$.01 par value common stock of Nyeal Corporation, the parent corporation of Ni-Cal Finance N.V., effective December 31, 1989, and all other rights and remedies under the Debentures shall be extinguished and satisfied as of that date.

In order to effectuate the Conversion, the holder of any Debenture to be converted shall surrender such Debenture together with all unmatured coupons (if any) appertaining thereto at the office of:

National Trus. Company 666 Burrard Street, Suite 900 Vancouver, British Columbia

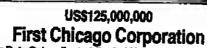
Attn: Glenn Raven Assistant Manager Corporate Trust Department

> DONGAH CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD US\$100,000,000 FLOATING RATE NOTES 1997

Notice is hereby given that, in accordance with the provisions of the above mentioned Floating Rates Notes, the rate of interest for the six months period from Merch 5, 1991 to September 5, 1991 (184 days) has been fixed at 7 .35% per annum.

The interest payable on September 5, 1991 will be US\$ 375.67 in respect of each US\$ 10,000 Note and US\$ 9,391.67 in respect of each US\$ 250,000 Note.

BANQUE INTERNATIONALE A LUXEMBOURG Bodité Anonyme



Floating Rate Subordinated Capital Notes Due December 1996 Notice is hereby given that the Rate of Interest has been fixed at 7.125% and that the interest payable on the relevant Interest Payment Date, June 6, 1991 against Coupan No. 16 in respect of US\$100,000 nominal of the Notes will be US\$1,620.83.

March 6, 1991, Lordon By: Gilbank, N.A. (CSSI Dept.), Agent Bank

CITIBANCO

INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL MARKETS

Agreement reached on Koor debt rescheduling

By Judy Maltz in Jerusalem

ISRAEL'S parliamentary finance committee has approved \$100m in loan guarglomerate, paving the way for the implementation of complex deht-rescheduling agree-menis with the company's local and foreign banks and

The loan guarantees were approved after months of wrangling between the govern-ment, Koor's creditors and its shareholders over the terms of the arrangement. Koor, which s owned by Israel's giant trade union federation, owes local and foreign creditors more than \$1bn. Mr Benjamin Gaon, Koor's

managing director, welcomed the finance committee's decision, saying: "This dectsion will enable us to put into effect tha arrangement with our bondholders in Israel and ahroad and with banks in

ahroad and with banks in Israel and abroad."

Koor, Israel's largest industrial concern, has been struggling to stave off the threat of liquidation for the past two-and-a-half years. Under a far-reaching recovery programma adopted in 1939, the company has pared its work force by a third to 19,500, sold \$261 m in assets. and closed \$261m in assets, and closed unprofitable factories and product lines.

In return for the govern-ment loan guarantees, the His-tadrut has agreed to invest \$25m in Koor and cut its stake



Benjamin Gaon: welcomed committee's decision

in the concern to 26 per cent, Aside from the loan guarantees, the government has also approved a \$50m cash grant to Koor, which has already received the finance committee's empreyed. tee's approval. Under the terms of the

rescheduling arrangement, formulated a year ago, Koor' \$205m debt to foreign cred tors will be restructured s that 42.5 per cent will be pai in cash upon the signing of the agreement, 20 per cent over four years, and 37.5 per cent by giving the banks equity in

S Korean firm warned on price manipulation

The SSB is considering ways to watch stock price variations from planning date to signing date on overseas equityrelated securities to eliminate further stock pricing manipu-

Short-covering gives a strong start to Treasuries

By Karen Zagor in New York and Simon London in London

SHORT-covering overnight helped US Treasuries start the day on a strong note and the market held firm through the morning in light trading.
At mid-session, the treasury's bellwether 30-year bond was up ½ at 35%, yielding 8.24

per cent. Gains were less pr at the short end of the yield curve, where the three-year

issue was up 1/4, yielding 7.33 per cent. The Federal Reserva operated in the open market to arrange \$1.5bn in overnight repurchase agreements when Fed funds, the rate at which banks lend to each other, were

There was little reaction to the only economic news of the morning, that factory orders had fallen by 1.7 per cent in February, although the decline was greater than the 0.7 per cent decline most analysts had

In spite of the morning's

GOVERNMENT BONDS

gains, the market remains concerned that the US economy may be improving quickly enough to prevent the Federal Reserve from easing monetary

policy again.

Trading is thus expected to remain dull until Friday, when the February employment fig-ures are due.

■GERMAN government bonds showed the first substantial gains for some weeks, despite the release of industrial production figures which suggest that inflationary pressures persist in the economy. On the London International

Financial Futures Exchange, the March bund futures contract closed at 85.44 after opening at 84.99. The last 9 per cent 10-year bund closed on a yield of 8.38 per cent, against 8.40 on Mon-

Industrial output grew by 3.6 per cent during January, after falling by 0.7 per cent in

The figures were boosted by very strong growth in the construction sector, although underlying manufacturing output also grew by 2.5 per cent. Further evidence of the

likely direction of German monetary policy is due this week, with manufacturing prospects of a further easing of

BENCHMARK GOVERNMENT BONDS 103-25 -+03/32 10.77 10.78 TL45 93-13 +16/32 10.13 10.00 10.09 93-00 +21/32 9.84 9.76 9.60 97-23 +12/32 16.09 7.91 96-26 +05/32 8.25 8.08 9.000 01/01 104,2200 +0.370 8.34 8.34 FRANCE STAN 9.000 02/95 98,1105 ±0.152 9.22 9.28 0AT 9.500 01/01 102.8500 ±0.380 9.04 6.05 13.000 - 07/00 108.3667 +0.177 11.51 11.49 11.58

monetary conditions by the Bank of Japan. While business

confidence fell once again, inflationary pressures in the economy persist, particularly in the labour market.

Mr Yesushi Meino, Bank-of

Japan governor, appeared to underscore that there will be

no imminent cut in interest

rates in his testimony to the hadget committee of parlia-

However, the market was boosted in London trading by signs that the recent rally in the dollar in the foreign exchange markets has come to an end. The 129 was yielding of the property of the

6.61 per cent by late afternoon.

CANADIAN government bonds offered the highest total return during February, measured in US dollar or sterling terms.

bond index monitor showed:

Canadian government bends giving a total return of 3.86 per

cent during the month, mea-sured in US dollar terms....

dian government bonds gave a sizeable total return of 7.26 per

cent for February according to data from Kemper Investment

set deal

Hose .

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date (CE)

Land.

西京

Carrier.

San Francisco (In 1865)

orders data and money supply figures for January set for

Most other European bond markets remained subduad, with many investors waiting for Friday's US non-farm pay-roll figures for February before

allocating funds.

The labour market data may provide a key indication of the prospects of a further easing of monetary conditions by the Federal Reserve.

Non-farm employment fell by 232,000 in January, prompting the Fed to cut both its dis-count rate and Federal funds rate by 50 basis points on Feb-

MIN THE absence of hard eco-nomic data, UK government bonds continued to find support from expectations of a fur-ther cut in interest rates.

Dealers reported some switching to longer-dated gilts on the grounds that the flatten-ing of the yield curve over the past month has gone too far.
This benefited the 11% percent gilt maturing 2003/2007,

which gained % point on the day to close at 110% for a yield of 10.19 per cent. However, shorter-dated gilts gained only around & at the two-year matu-

■ JAPANESE government bonds gave a muted reaction to the Bank of Japan's quarterly Tankan survey of business conditions, with the bench-No 129 closing the Tokyo day to yield 6.645 per cent, against The Tankan was interpreted as giving mixed signals on the

slipped to 14th place in Kemper's index of 17 markets, having posted the best returns for sterling investors during January.
Measured in local currency

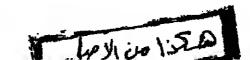
terms,.. French government bonds were the top performers, offering a return of 3.26 per cent for the month, against 2.71 per cent on Canadian bonds and just 14 per cent on UK

Letest prices at 6:10 per on March 0

FT/AIBD INTERNATIONAL BOND SERVICE

rescheduling arrangement,				Chg.		Che
formulated a year ago, Koor's	U.S. DOLLAR STRAIGHTS	Issued I	d Offer	day Ya	eld OTHER STRAIGHTS	Issued Bld Offer day Yield 600 - 92% - 93% 9.78
\$205m debt to foreign credi-	ABSEY NATIONAL B7/893	150 10 600 10	1031	-11 · 8	24 BAYERISCHE VEREINS INT 794 LF	1000 224 433, 478 178 1800 244 253, 478 1800 244 253, 478 1800 244 253, 478 1800 244 253, 478 1800 244 253, 478 1800 253
tors will be restructured so	ALBERTA PROVINCE 9 3/8 95	400 9	981 981 1007 1017	1111	L76 WORLD BANK B96 LFr	1000 941 951 9.74 1000 941 951 9.46 150 941 954 10.18
that 42.5 per cent will be paid		100 9	984	+4 8	.81 AMRO BANK 61/492 F7	150 941 954 10.18 150 923 931 10.17
in cash upon tha signing of the	SELGIUM 9 1/8 92	400 10 150 9	971	7 8	16 RABOBANK 5 3/4 93 FT	500 99% 100 10.11
agreement, 20 per cent over	BNP 85/899	300 10	101	. 8	21 BCE BC 95(893 CS	150 923 931 10.17 560 994 100 10.11 300 964 99 10.41
	D. M. Hort And to be the Hamiltonia	150 9 300 10 150 10 1000 10	2. 1032 1. 1031	-7a B	1.16 RABOBARK 5 3/4 93 FT 1.35 ALBERTA PROVINCE 10 92 CS 1.21 BUE INC 9 5/8 93 CS 1.22 BET L CARADA 10 5/8 99 CS 1.18 BRITISH COLUMBUA 9 1/4 93 CS	300 961- 99 10.41 150 1001 1004 1- 10.56 150 981- 903 +4 10.19 130 100 1005 -4 10.19 100 971- 981- 4 10.17 175 101 1011- 4 9.74
four years, and 37.5 per cent		650 9	3 981 B		84 EB 10 1/8 90 CS	130 100 100 - 10.12
by giving the banks equity in	CARCO 9 1/4 96	300 10	好 105%	- g	.19 FORD CREDIT CANADA 10 94 CS	150 984 985 + 10.19 130 100 1005 - 10.12 100 971 984 + 10.12 175 101 101 + 1 9.74 100 972 98 + 10.83
Koor.	COUNCIL EUROPES 96	100 9	983	+4 8	34 CENERAL ELECT CAP 10 1/4 93 CS 71 MONTREAL TRUSTOD 8 1/2 92 CS	175 101 101 + 17 9.74 100 97 2 98 + 10.83
Israeli banks will write off	CREDIT FORCIER 9 1/2 99	650 97. 300 100 300 100 250 50 150 100 193 97. 250 97.	544	- A &	II MUNINEAL INVOICED BUE 14 CO	100 97- 98 + 10.83 50 1015 1015 10.50 200 100 1005 - 10.50 1
\$200m of Koor's \$700m debt	DENHADY 97/400	150 10	100%	+4 8	80 ONTARIO HYDRO 107/8 99 CS 14 OUEBEC PROV 10 1/2 98 CS 35 ROYAL TRUSTCO 10 1/4 93 CS	200 100 100 100 1 -1 10.48 100 981, 994, 44, 10.86 100 981, 994, 44, 10.86 1250 995, 994, 44, 922 250 931, 955, 41, 10.86 1251 954 975, -1 10.85
owed to them, exchange	ECSCS 1/4 96 EEC 7 1/4 93 EB 7 3/4 95 EB 9 1/4 97 ELEC DE FRANCE 9 98	193 9	100	Ş.	57 SWEDEN 93/4 93 CS	250 001 700 1 000
another \$200m for equity, and	FIR 7 3/4 96	250 11	901	+4 8	21 BELGIUM 91/896 ED:	1250 99 99 +1 9.22
the rest will be rescheduled	EIB 9 1/4 97	600 I	03 1034	8.	63 CREDIT LYONIALS 9 96 ECU	250 933 953 - 10.45
	ELEC DE FRANCE 998	. 200 102	1 1024	N. B.	53 CREDIT LYONGAIS 9% ECU	250 91 913 9.93
over nine years.	FOKUPHEN & THE AG PRINTED	150 104	100	. 8	61 DEHMARK 75/8.96 Em	200 953 963 +4 9.27 1125 1685 1685 9.18 1000 1684 1685 +4 9.18 2750 994 994 9.20 100 1624 1625 +4 1227
As part of the agreement,	EMPGRT DEV CRP 9 1/2 98 FINLARD Y 7/8 97 FINNISH EXPORT 9 3/8 95 FROD MOTOR CREDIT 9 1/2 99 GEN ELEC CAPITAL 9 3/8 96 GAAC 9 1/8 96 HALIFAC 9 1/2 93 HBM WORLD TRADE; 7 5/8 95 HALIFAC 9 1/2 97 HTER AMER DEV 7 5/8 96 TIALY 0 1/2 94	200 96	4 964	+1. 8.	71 F18 10 97 Eq	1125 108% 108% 9.18
Koor's bondholdars in Israel	FINALISH EXPORT 9 3/8 95	200 100	1034	+4 8	44 TALY 10 3/4 00 Eq.	1000 1064 1054 +4 9.32
and abroad will have the	CEN ET ECCAPITAL 9 349 94	300 103	1041	F-1 0.	H BICH FRANCE IA 1/292AS	100 1024 1024 +4 12.27
choice of recouping 51 per cent	GMAC 91/8 96	200 99	997	-4 93	2 COUNCELEUROPE 1395AS	50 101 102 -4 12 40
of the face value of the bonds	HALIFAX 9 1/2 93	200 102	103	. 83	4 EKSPURIFINANS 12378 45 AS	100 1024 1024
in cash or receive 10 per cent	IND RE JAPAN FIN 77/8 97	200 95	107	4 444	INDUCATIONS DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE	50 101 102 - 4 12.40 75 1924 1033 - +4 11.44 50 994 1004 - 4 15.29 100 1034 1005 - 4 12.36 100 1075 1084 + 12.26 100 1075 1085 + 4 12.12 100 1054 1065 + 4 12.12 100 1064 1065 + 4 12.12
of the face value in cash, 65	INTER AMER DEV 75/8 96	200 %	25	44 84	B MCDONALDS CANADA 15 95 AS	100 1075 1083 +5 12.56 150 1064 1065 +4 12.16 100 107 1077 +4 12.22 100 1064 1064 +4 12.22 100 1064 1064 +4 11.37 250 964 566 +4 11.88
	ITALY 0 1/2 94 JAPAN DEV BK B 94 KANSAI ELEC PWR 10 96	1500 101	1001	79	EL MAT MUST KALLA BANK 14 344 44 AS.	100 1004 1005 +4 12.14
per cent in new 12-year 8.5 per	KANSALELEC PWR 10 96	350 101	105	+4 8.6 8.3	8 VOLKSWACEN INTL 15 94AS	100 1063 1065 +4 1238
cent bonds and 25 per cent in	LTC8 05/893	150 100	201	8.3	ABBEY HATTL TREAS 13 3/8 93 £	100 1061 1064 + 11.37
Koor equity. Koor has issued	CIDG 05/6793 NEW JEALAND B 93 NEW JEALAND B 93 NEW JEALAND B 93 NEPON CRED BK 9 3/4 93 NOPON CRED BK 9 3/4 93 NOTICE ON 9 4/4 99 POTON CANADA 7 1/4 96 QUEBEC NYDRO 9 3/4 99 QUEBEC PROV 9 66	100 9 100 9 100 10 100		# 80 # 83	R RRITISH CAS 12 3/4 05 C	100 971 981 1088 1089 1089 1089 1089 1089 1089
\$105m in bonds in Israel and	MIPPON CIED BY 7 3/4 73	200 103	1031	7 13	5 DEUTSCHERK FIN 11946	225 100 1001 +4 10.97
\$105m in bonds in the US.	MORDIC INV BANK 993	200 102	1021	7.9	3 9610976	- 300 961 961 10.82
Representatives of the com-	ONTARIO HYDRO 11 5/8 94	200 100	101	+4 8.3 7.9 →2 8.5 7.7	THE AMERICAN TORONG TORONG	75 103 1035 44 10.75
pany's local and foreign bank	PETRO-CANADA 7 1/4 96	200 94° 365.216 49°	935	+1 85 1 93 9.0	0 ITALY 10 1/2 14 E	75 102 1025 +4 10.75 400 942 95 +2 11.16 200 814 812 +4 12.22
creditors are scheduled to	PRODENTIAL RLTY SECSO 99	365.216 49	.50	+4 93	6 LAND SECS 9 1/2 07 £	. 200 81 81 12 + 1222
meet next week to discuss the	MIEREC PROV 9 98	200 100	1012	7.0	UEEDS PERMANENT 9 1/4 93 E	- 50 941 951 12.02 200 961 961 11.11
final details of the agreement.	CAINCRIDY & STROK	150 101	102	→ 8.8 → 8.8	ROLLS-ROYCE 95/8 93 £	200 984 974 +4 1161 150 95 954 +4 1216 100 984 99 +4 1178
	SAS 10 99	200 983	995	+4 10.2	5 SAIKSBURY 10 7/8 93 €	200 984 974 +4 1181 150 95 954 +4 1216 100 984 99 +4 1178
Koor reported a net profit of	STATE BESTHAUST 9 1/4 95	150 103 200 100 150 101 200 98 500 103 100 101	1021	******	WORLD BANK 11 1M 95 E.	150 1044 1051 11.60 100 1015 102 44 10.72
34m in the third quarter of	SUBITOMO BK CAP MKT 93/893	150 1021 150 997	1025	1 1 17	WORLD BANK 11 1M 95 E 8 ABBEY MATIONAL O 95 MZS 4 TELECOM MZ ORS FIN 13 1/8 93 MZS	100 1013 102 +1 10.72 100 501 52 -1 12.92 75 102 105 +1 12.05
1990 - lts first quarterly	SWEDEN O 1/0 M	100 103	1035	** 77	A TELECOM NZ DISFIN 131/893 NZS.	- 75 102 105 +4 12.08
profit in more than three	TOKYO METROPOLIS 8 1/4 96	100 1034 200 983	991	8.6	8 AIDC 7 7/893 FF7 9 CHEDIT LYONNAIS 10 95 FFF 6 EDRATOM 7 5/8 98 FF7	2000 1011 1011 +1 964
years.	WORLD HANK 5 3/8 99	1500 001				
Journ.	WHITE IS HANK R WA 97	1500 1021	1035	- 20	EDRATUM 75/898 FF/	500 902 91 947
	WORLD BANK 6 3/4 97 XERDX CORPN 6 3/8 96	250 1 1 200 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	1052	- 1 84 24 92	6 EURATUM 7 5/8 98 FF?	500 901 91 9.47
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S Korean firm	BEUTSCHE MARK STRAIGHTS	200 964	981,	124 92	FLOATING RATE NOTES 8 ABBEY NATIONAL LIAGOS	Inned Bid Offer Care
S Korean firm warned on price	BEUTSCHE MARK STRAIGHTS	200 964	981,	+1 84 +21 82 +1 89 -21 89	FLOATING RATE NOTES 8 ABBEY NATIONAL LIA 00 2. 0 ALBERTA PROVINCE 1/32 93. 4 ALLIANCE ALBERTS 0.08 94 5.	Inned Bid Offer Care
S Korean firm warned on price	BEUTSCHE MARK STRAIGHTS ASIAH DEV BANK O 94 AUSTRIA 6 92 CR 16 1/8 96 CR 16 1/8 96 CR 15 1/8 97 DEUTSCHE DK FIN 5 3/8 96 EEC 5 3/8 9	200 964	981,	+1 84 +21 82 +1 89 -21 89	FLOATING RATE NOTES 8 ABBEY NATIONAL LIA 00 2. 0 ALBERTA PROVINCE 1/32 93. 4 ALLIANCE ALBERTS 0.08 94 5.	Inned Bid Offer Care
S Korean firm	BEUTSCHE MARK STRAIGHTS ASIAN DEV BANK O 94 AUSTRIA 98 CR 16 L/8 96 CR 16 L/8 96 CR 17 STRAIGHTS DEUTSCHE DK FIN 5 S/8 96 EEC 5 3/8 75 EIB 6 L/8 97 EIB 6 L/8 97	200 964	981,	+1 84 +21 82 +1 89 -21 89	FLOATING RATE NOTES 8 ABBEY NATIONAL IJA 606 s. 8 ABBEY NATIONAL IJA 606 s. 4 ALLANCE & LEICS & GOS 94 s. 9 BAND SHANA LOS D. 8 BANCO SANTO SPIRTO 97 20 BELGUN IJA 97 DM.	Inned Bid Offer Care
S Korean firm warned on price	BEUTSCHE MARK STRAIGHTS ASIAN DEV BANK O 94 AUSTRIA 98 CR 16 L/8 96 CR 16 L/8 96 CR 17 STRAIGHTS DEUTSCHE DK FIN 5 S/8 96 EEC 5 3/8 75 EIB 6 L/8 97 EIB 6 L/8 97	200 964	981,	+1 8.4 +2 8.9 +2 8.9 -2 8.9 -2 8.8 -2 8.9 -2 8.9 -3 8.9 -3 8.9 -3 8.9 -3 8.9 -3 8.9 -3 8.9 -3 8.9 -3 8.9 -3 8.9 -3 8 -3 8 -3 8 -3 8 -3 8 -3 8 -3 8 -3 8	FLOATING RATE NOTES 8 ABBEY RATIONAL IDAGOS 0 ALBERTA PROVINCE 1722 93 6 ALLIANCE & LERS 0.0594 E 8 AMOD ROMA 0.05 BT 8 BAHOD SANTO SPIRTO 93 2 BELERUM 1/16 97 DM 1 BRICE-0.02 95 5 BHP 05 7 BRITANNIA 1/10 96 E	Inned Bid Offer Care
S Korean firm warned on price manipulation	BEUTSCHE MARK STRAIGHTS ASIAN DEV BANK O 94 AUSTRIA 98 CR 16 L/8 96 CR 16 L/8 96 CR 17 STRAIGHTS DEUTSCHE DK FIN 5 S/8 96 EEC 5 3/8 75 EIB 6 L/8 97 EIB 6 L/8 97	200 964	981,	+1 8.4 +2 8.9 +2 8.9 -2 8.9 -2 8.8 -2 8.9 -2 8.9 -3 8.9 -3 8.9 -3 8.9 -3 8.9 -3 8.9 -3 8.9 -3 8.9 -3 8.9 -3 8.9 -3 8 -3 8 -3 8 -3 8 -3 8 -3 8 -3 8 -3 8	PLDATING RATE NUTES A BBEY NATIONAL 1/16 00 E. A BERTA PROVINCE 1/12 93 ALIENTA PROVINCE 1/12 93 ALIENTA PROVINCE 1/12 93 ALIENTA STRITTO 93 BELEDIUM 1/16 97 DM BERTE - 0.02 96 BRP 05 BRP 05 BRP 05 COCCE 06 ED	Inned Bid Offer Care
S Korean firm warned on price manipulation SOUTH KOREA'S SSANGYONS	BEUTSCHE MARK STRAIGHTS ASIAN DEV BANK 0 94 AUSTRIA 6 93 CR 16 1/8 96 CR 16 1/8 96 EEC 3 3/8 96 EEK 5 3/8 96 EUROFINA 6 1/8 96 EUROFINA 6 1/8 96 FELDMUER E FINANCE 0 99 FELRO DEL STAT 5 3/8 95	200 964	981,	+4 8.4 +4 8.9 +4 8.9 -24 8.9 -24 8.9 -24 8.9 -24 8.9 +24 9.1 +1 8.9	PLDATING RATE NUTES A BBEY NATIONAL 1/16 00 E. A BERTA PROVINCE 1/12 93 ALIENTA PROVINCE 1/12 93 ALIENTA PROVINCE 1/12 93 ALIENTA STRITTO 93 BELEDIUM 1/16 97 DM BERTE - 0.02 96 BRP 05 BRP 05 BRP 05 COCCE 06 ED	Immed
S Korean firm warned on price manipulation SOUTH Korea's Sangyong Investment and Securities has	BEUTSCHE MARK STRAIGHTS ASIAN DEV BANK 0 94 AUSTRIA 6 93 CR 16 1/8 96 CR 16 1/8 96 EEC 3 3/8 96 EEK 5 3/8 96 EUROFINA 6 1/8 96 EUROFINA 6 1/8 96 FELDMUER E FINANCE 0 99 FELRO DEL STAT 5 3/8 95	200 964	981,	-14 8.42 -24 8.99 -24 8.89 -24 8.90 -24 8.89 -24 8.80 -24	PLDATING RATE NUTES A BBEY NATIONAL 1/16 00 E. A BERTA PROVINCE 1/12 93 ALIENTA PROVINCE 1/12 93 ALIENTA PROVINCE 1/12 93 ALIENTA STRITTO 93 BELEDIUM 1/16 97 DM BERTE - 0.02 96 BRP 05 BRP 05 BRP 05 COCCE 06 ED	Immed
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S Korean firm warned on price manipulation SOUTH Korea's Stangyong Investment and Securities has accepted a government watch- dog agency's penalty for stock	BEUTSCHE MARK STRAIGHTS ASAN BEV BANK O 94 ANSTRIA 6 98 CRI 16 1/8 98 CRI 16 1/8 98 CRI 16 1/8 99 CRISTING OR FIN 5 3/8 95 CRISTING OR FIN 5 3/8 95 CRISTING OR FIN 5 3/8 95 CRISTING OR FIN 5 3/8 95 CRISTING OR FIN 5 3/8 95 CRISTING OR FIN 5 3/8 95 CRISTING OR FIN 5 3/8 95 REPRODEL STAT 5 3/8 95 RETER AMERICA 1/4 99 LICTHARGES (OFF FIN 5 3/8 95) RETER AMERICA 1/4 99 LICTHARGES (OFF FIN 5 3/8 95)	200 987 400 844 500 874 750 894 300 883 300 941 400 941 500 941 500 941 500 843 500 843	981,	42 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 4	PLDATING RATE NUTES A BBEY NATIONAL 1/16 00 E. A BERTA PROVINCE 1/12 93 ALIENTA PROVINCE 1/12 93 ALIENTA PROVINCE 1/12 93 ALIENTA STRITTO 93 BELEDIUM 1/16 97 DM BERTE - 0.02 96 BRP 05 BRP 05 BRP 05 COCCE 06 ED	Immed
S Korean firm warned on price manipulation SOUTH Korea's Stangyong Investment and Securities has accepted a government watch- dog agency's penalty for stock price manipulation involving	BEUTSCHE MARK STRAIGHTS ASAN BEV BANK O 94 ANSTRIA 6 98 CRI 16 1/8 98 CRI 16 1/8 98 CRI 16 1/8 99 CRISTING OR FIN 5 3/8 95 CRISTING OR FIN 5 3/8 95 CRISTING OR FIN 5 3/8 95 CRISTING OR FIN 5 3/8 95 CRISTING OR FIN 5 3/8 95 CRISTING OR FIN 5 3/8 95 CRISTING OR FIN 5 3/8 95 REPRODEL STAT 5 3/8 95 RETER AMERICA 1/4 99 LICTHARGES (OFF FIN 5 3/8 95) RETER AMERICA 1/4 99 LICTHARGES (OFF FIN 5 3/8 95)	200 987 400 844 500 874 750 894 300 883 300 941 400 941 500 941 500 941 500 843 500 843	9012 8555 8745 8844 9445 9445 9445 9445 9445 9445 94	-14 9.2 8.4 9.2 8.4 9.2 8.4 9.2 8.5 9.2 2.2 1.4 1.5 8.5 8.7 9.3 9.4 1.5 8.5 8.7 9.3 9.5 9.5 9.5 9.5 9.5 9.5 9.5 9.5 9.5 9.5	PLDATING RATE NUTES A BBEY NATIONAL 1/16 00 E. A BERTA PROVINCE 1/12 93 ALIENTA PROVINCE 1/12 93 ALIENTA PROVINCE 1/12 93 ALIENTA STRITTO 93 BELEDIUM 1/16 97 DM BERTE - 0.02 96 BRP 05 BRP 05 BRP 05 COCCE 06 ED	Immed
S Korean firm warned on price manipulation SOUTH Korea's Ssangyong investment and Securities has accepted a government watch- dog agency's penalty for stock price manipulation involving overseas bonds, Reuter reports	BEUTSCHE MARK STRAIGHTS ASAN BEV BANK O 94 ANSTRIA 6 98 CRI 16 1/8 98 CRI 16 1/8 98 CRI 16 1/8 99 CRISTING OR FIN 5 3/8 95 CRISTING OR FIN 5 3/8 95 CRISTING OR FIN 5 3/8 95 CRISTING OR FIN 5 3/8 95 CRISTING OR FIN 5 3/8 95 CRISTING OR FIN 5 3/8 95 CRISTING OR FIN 5 3/8 95 REPRODEL STAT 5 3/8 95 RETER AMERICA 1/4 99 LICTHARGES (OFF FIN 5 3/8 95) RETER AMERICA 1/4 99 LICTHARGES (OFF FIN 5 3/8 95)	200 987 400 844 500 874 750 894 300 883 300 941 400 941 500 941 500 941 500 843 500 843	9012 8555 8745 8844 9445 9445 9445 9445 9445 9445 94	-14 9.2 8.4 9.2 8.4 9.2 8.4 9.2 8.5 9.2 2.2 1.4 1.5 8.5 8.7 9.3 9.4 1.5 8.5 8.7 9.3 9.5 9.5 9.5 9.5 9.5 9.5 9.5 9.5 9.5 9.5	PLDATING RATE NUTES A BBEY NATIONAL 1/16 00 E. A BERTA PROVINCE 1/12 93 ALIENTA PROVINCE 1/12 93 ALIENTA PROVINCE 1/12 93 ALIENTA STRITTO 93 BELEDIUM 1/16 97 DM BERTE - 0.02 96 BRP 05 BRP 05 BRP 05 COCCE 06 ED	1,000 1,00
S Korean firm warned on price manipulation SOUTH Korea's Ssangyong investment and Securities has accepted a government watch- dog agency's penalty for stock price manipulation involving overseas bonds, Reuter reports from Seoul.	BEUTSCHE MARK STRAIGHTS ASIAH BEV BANKO 94 ANSTRIA 6 98 CRI 16 1/8 98 CRI 16 1/8 98 CRI 16 1/8 99 CRI 17 90 CRI 17 90 CRI 17 99 CRI 17 9	200 964	9012 8555 8745 8844 9445 9445 9445 9445 9445 9445 94	42 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 42 4	PLDATING RATE NUTES A BBEY NATIONAL 1/16 00 E. A BERTA PROVINCE 1/12 93 ALIENTA PROVINCE 1/12 93 ALIENTA PROVINCE 1/12 93 ALIENTA STRITTO 93 BELEDIUM 1/16 97 DM BERTE - 0.02 96 BRP 05 BRP 05 BRP 05 COCCE 06 ED	1,000 1,00
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S Korean firm warned on price manipulation SOUTH Korea's Ssangyong Investment and Securities has accepted a government watch- dog agency's penalty for stock price manipulation involving overseas bonds, Reuter reports from Seoul. The Securities Supervisory Board (SSB) issued a warning	BEUTSCHE MARK STRAIGHTS ASIAH BEV BANKO 94 AUSTRIA 6 98 CR 16 1/8 96 CR 16 1/8 96 CR 16 1/8 97 CR 16 1/8 97 CR 17 97 CR	200 984 400 854 590 577 750 894 300 894 200 894 200 994 200 994 300 887 300 887	95585 874 945 945 945 945 945 925 95 95 95 95 95 95 95 95 95 95 95 95 95		FLOATING RATE NUTES ABBEY NATIONAL 1/16 00 S. A BERT ARTONAL 1/16 00 S. A LERTA PROVINCE 1/12 93 ALLERCA PROVINCE 1/12 93 ALLIANCE & LEES 0.00 94 S. BALLIANCE & LEES 0.00 94 S. COLES 0.00 EQUILIBRIAN 1/10 96 S. COLES 0.00 EQUILIBRIAN 1/10 96 S. COLES 0.00 EQUILIBRIAN 1/10 96 S. COLES 0.00 EQUILIBRIAN 1/10 96 S. BALLIANCE 1/10 94 S. BALLIANCE 1/10	1,000 1,00
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S Korean firm warned on price manipulation SOUTH Korea's Ssangyong investment and Securities has accepted a government watch- dog agency's penalty for stock price manipulation involving overseas bonds, Reuter reports from Seoul. The Securities Supervisory Board (SSB) issued a warning to Ssangyong as a penalty for manipulating share prices of Samick Musical Instruments	BEUTSCHE MARK STRAIGHTS ASIAI BEV BANKO 94 ANSTRIA 6 98 CRI 16 1/8 98 CRI 16 1/8 98 CRI 16 1/8 98 CRI 16 1/8 99 CRI 17 96 CREDIT FORCIER IS 3/4 99 CRIDIT FORCIER IS 3/4 99 CRI 17 99 CRI	200 984 200 877 750 894 300 883 300 984 200 944 200 944 200 877 500 801 300 877 500 877 500 877 500 877 500 877 500 877	905-55 574-55 574-55 944-55 944-56 585-51 945-56 94	- 24	FLOATING RATE NOTES 8 ABBEY NATIONAL IJA6 00 S. 8 ABBEY NATIONAL IJA6 00 S. 9 ALLEARY PROVINCE IJS 93 4 ALLIANCE & LEES 0.05 94 S. 9 BANCO SANTO SPIRTO 93 9 BELGIUM IJA6 97 DM 18 RFCE -0.02 96 18 RFCE -0.02 96 18 RFCE -0.02 96 18 RFCE -0.02 96 19 ALLIANCE SANTO SPIRTO 93 10 RFCE -0.02 96 1,000 1,00	
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Investor demand for dollar deals runs out of steam

By Tracy Corrigan

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THE recent surge of demand for dollar paper in the Eurobond market is obbing, and the flurry of interest in long-dated paper appears to be exhausted, as the lack of direction of bond markets is shaking investors' faith in a prolonged bull mar-

New issues launched yesterday were mainly concentrated at the shorter end of the mar-ket, where spreads have been tlgbtening. Although demand for shorter maturities is said to be holding up better, investors

Swedish Export Credit's (SEK) \$700m issue of five-year bonds was described by several traders as too large for the current level of demand. The 8% per cent bonds were priced to yield 55 basis points above the five-year US Treasury, the wider end of the indicated 52 basis point to 55 basis point spread range, according to lead

manager Morgan Stanley. Although the pricing of the deal was not unreasonable, there was little incentive for investors to buy the paper in a directioniess dollar bond market, some dealers said. The issue offered a three basis point pick up over five-year

INTERNATIONAL BONDS

Finland paper in the secondary

market. The SEK deal is likely to become a benchmark in the secondary market, a rurity from a borrower which in recent years has specialised in

targeted transactions.

Despite the fall-off in investor demand, there is little loose paper in the dollar market. even after heavy issuance of 10-year bonds, and borrowers like the European Investment Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank nre still contemplating issues at the long end of the market, according to bankers.

In the Euroyen sector, the Republic of Finland launched a Y50bn five-year deal, via IBJ, which is also expected to become a trading benchmark. The 6% per cent coupon bonds were priced in line with secondary market levels, but investors again seemed rather uninspired. Both SEK and Finland issues

were still being held at their fixed re-offer price at the end of Tuesday's trading. In the Spanish matador bond market, a Pta8bn issue of five-

year bonds for the Interna-tional Finance Corpuration, the affiliate of the World Bank, met firm demand. The bonds were bid at less 1, well within full fees of 1% points.

	NEW	INTE	RNATIO	DNAL	BOND	ISSU	ES
Borrower US DOLLARS		Aznount m.	Coupon %	Price	Maturity	Fees	Sook runner
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D-MARKS Yonekyu Corp. a)+		45	41/2	100	1995	24/11/2	Nomura Bank/Doutsch.)
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Greek deal

By Kerin Hope in Athens

OLYMPIC MARINE, a stateowned Greek yacht building company, will be sold to Can-tieri Posillipo of Italy in the first cross-border deal agreed under the government's priva-

tisation programme. Cantlari, a luxury boat-builder owned by the US-based Nouri Group, offered Dr850m (\$5.5m) for the Greek company which which suffered a loss of Dr14m in 1989.

It is one of 28 heavily indebted companies which the indebted companies which the state-controlled Industrial Reconstruction Organisation has been trying to privatise.

Italian group in | Whitbread rated A+

By Simon London

WHITBREAD, the UK brewing group, bas received its first credit ratings, A+ for senior debt and Al for commercial paper, from IBCA, the Euro-

pean rating agency.
IBCA said the group's earnings bad shown a steady increase in the past five years, led by the retailing division, which doubled operating profits in the period. In 1990, earnings covered net interest charges by nearly five times. A weakening of the balance

food group, said IBCA. Gearing has also been reduced by equity growth following the in-house revaluation of the group's freehold and long leasebold property in 1989 which revealed a surplus of almost £1bn over previous book values. The group now has a net deht/equity ratio of 7

per cent. Whitbread's 11% per cent 20year domestic debenture bond issue, lannched in December at a yield spread of 140 basis points over comparable UK government paper, now offers a spread of around 131 basis points over gilts.

Slow start for Manila currency **futures**

CURRENCY futures trading has got off to a slow start at the Manila International Futures Exchange (Mifc) ahead of adjustments in settlement and other procedures, Reuter reports from Manila.

Mife is licensed to trade currency fntnres contracts but has to settle all accounts in pesos. On Friday, trading began in yen, mark and sterling contracts, all quoted against the dollar. Turnover was described as minuscule.

Opening day volume for sterling futures was 18 lots, for yen 32 lots, and D-Mark 36 lots. Open positions on yester-day were 44 lots for pounds, 94 for D-Marks and 46 for yen. Mife officials say the aim of the market is to provide a hedging vehicle for husinesses to protect against adverse exchange rate fluctuations. But many speculators say they prefer the sidelines for now in order to watch the market's

"Another bltcb that turos "Another blich that turos off traders is the arrangement that there will be up physical delivery of the foreign cnrrency which you trade," one trader said. "Delivery will be in pesse since accounts will be cettled in pesses." settled in pesos."
Mife's contract sizes match

those of the International Monetary Market (IMM) in Chicago at £62,500, DM125,000, and Y12.5m. A minimum deposit uf t00,000 pesos is required to cover lnitial margins.

The Mife also trades in soyabeans, sugar, copra and coffee futures. The most active mar-kets in 1990 were sugar and copra.

Belgian bond meets with strong demand

BELGIUM'S seven-year domestic borrowing, launched on Monday, raised BFr48.8hn on the first day of subscriptions, Reuter reports from Brussels. The result is good news for the treasury, which would be happy to raise BFr70bn an official said. He said the borrowing, bear-

ing a coupon of 9.25 per cent and priced at 101, attracted mainly individual investors.

Liffe aims for Ecu contract success

INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL MARKETS

THE NEW Ecu bond futures contract launched today by the London International Financial Futures Exchange may not cnjoy heavy volume immediately, but there are hopes that it will in time become the most actively traded futures contract in Europe.

In the last few years, the growth of the Ecu bond market has outstripped any other sec-tor, with outstanding issues

now estimated at Ecu55bn. If the Ecu becomes the currency of European monetary union, the Ecu bond market could rival even the US Treasury market in importance.

Consequently, the develop-ment of a successful contract holds great potential rewards for futures exchanges. If Liffe is to grasp that prize, It will have to make up ground against the Matif, the French

futures exchange, which launched the first Ecu bond contract last October. For the moment, the Ecu bond market, which has experienced strong growth but from a low hase, does not rank alongside the largest European

government bond markets, and the relative illiquidity of the cash market - despite recent benchmark issues by a number of sovereign and supranational borrowers - will inevitably hold back volume in the futures market.

Volume in the Ecu future bond futures contract an initial

Trading volume in exchange-traded derivative products surged last month, with record volume on both Liffe and the Matif. A record 3.57bn of futures and options were traded on Liffe last month, a 12 per cent increase on the previous monthly volume record set in August 1990. During one week in February, Liffe traded in

excess of 1m contracts for the first time. On the Matif, a record 3.52bn of lots were traded in February, up 12.8 per cent on January. More than 2m contracts changed hands in the notional government bond contract, up 30 per cent on the previous month

The Danish futures and options exchange also registered its highest monthly volume, exceeding 120,000 contracts. This represents a daily average of 6,000 contracts, well up on the previous average of 4,800 in January.

contract on the Matif has been less than spectacular, improving last month to an average daily volume of 2,600 lots. Daily volume on Liffe is expected to settle at about that

Brokers estimate the first day's volume may be as much as 5,000 contracts, with open interest - the outstanding contracts at the end of the day - of perhaps 2,000 contracts established.

Liffe's short-term Equipmer.

Liffe's short-term Ecu inter-

est rate contract has an average daily volume of only around 400 contracts. "The larger amount of deliverable bonds, and the stronger tradition of 'local' trading, are likely to give the Liffe Ecu

advantage over the Matif contract," according to Nomura Research Institute. Some dealers said they prefer the specifications of the

Liffe contract, which is based on a notional Ecu bond with a 9 per cent, rather than a 10 per cent coupon, better reflecting real market levels. Liffe decided to adopt a 9 per

coupon instead of 10 per cent, because of the substantial drop in Ecu yields in recent months. On the other hand, French banks have a much stronger position in the Ecu market than UK houses, and are expected to remain loyal to the **Matif**

Credit Lyonnais is the only French hank which is acting as a designated broker on the

Liffe Ecu contract. The list of deliverable bonds for June 1991 delivery consists of six issues, totalling close to Eculobn, by the UK (9!, per

cent due 2001) France (10 per cent due 2001 and 914 per cent due 2000) Italy (10% per cent due 1997 and 10% per cent due 2000) and the European investment Bank (10 per cent due 2001).

The cheapest issue to deliver is initially likely to be the Italy

2000 issue. The Liffe contract is twice the nominal size of the Matif contract at Ecu200,000, and the minimum price movement is one tick (basis point), so the tick size of Ecu20 is the same as for the Matif contract. • The Liffe board yesterday decided to put back the opening of the bund futures con-

tract to 7.30am. The start of trading was brought forward to 7am, from 8am, last autumn in order to sharpen the exchange's competitive edge against the Deutsche Terminborse, the German exchange which also trades a bund contract. Liffe said the early opening had not been justified by volume.

However, dealers commented that the success of the Liffe hund contract, which has average daily volume of 50,000 contracts, bao eased the exchange's concern about competition from the DTB.

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Indonesian group launches Eurobond

tions by the company in conti-

nental Europe, the UK and the US.

Some of the issue is expected to be sold to US institutional

investors under the Securities

and Exchange Commission Rule 144a.

INTERNATIONAL

EQUITY ISSUES

The company, with a market

capitalisation of about \$2.8bn,

was also the first from Indon-

esia to launch an international

issue, in March 1990. These

shares still trade above issue

price - in both local currency

The company, with large interests in the manufacture

and US dollar terms.

By Staphen Fidler, Euromarkets Correspondent

THE FIRST convertible Eurobond to be issued by an Indonesian company was

launched yesterday.
The \$100m convertible for PT Astra, the diversified group which is the largest publicly-traded company in Indonesia, is heing lead managed hy Morgan Stanley International. The bond, which has a final

15-year maturity, carries a cou-pon indicated between 61/2 and 7 per cent. It is convertible into shares at a premium indicated between 15 and 20 per cent above the market price - as measured by a five-day average before the setting date. It is non-callable for three years unless the share price exceeds 130 per cent of the conversion price.
The offering comes in the

-25

motorcycles in Indonesia, is controlled by the Soeryadjaya family, which owns 76.4 per cent of the stock. If all the bonds are converted, the fam-ily stake in the firm will fall to

High short-term interest rates in Indonesia make the convartible a highly afficient way of raising capital for the company.

Because the convertibles are

settled through the Eurobond clearing bouses, the convert-ibles are said by Morgan Stanley to offer more liquidity than shares in Indonesian compa-• UAL, the US airline, filed a

statement with the SEC for an offering of 1.5m new shares through Morgan Stanley. At current prices, the issue would and distribution of cars and

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Germany and Poland in talks on debt burden

GERMANY and Poland agreed to speed up talks on a friendship treaty but failed to set a date for completing the document, Reuter reports from

Mr Jan Krzysztof Bielecki, Polish prima minister, said after talks with Mr Helmut Kohl, German chancellor, that discussions would resume next week. Mr Bielecki said he asked for backing in easing debt. He sought Mr Kohl's sup-port for a Polish request that Western creditor nations can-cel 80 per cent of Warsaw's

A government source said Germany sought a reduction between Warsaw's proposed 80 per cent and 20 per cent as suggested by other lenders.

LONDON MARKET STATISTICS

	The Financial Time in conjunction with the										
	EQUITY GROUPS		Tuesday March 5 1991						Fri Mar 1	Thu Feb 28	Year ago Cappro
-	& SUB-SECTIONS.	1	· •	Est.	Gross	Est.					
k	ures in parentheses show number of stocks per section	Index No.	Day's Change	Earnings Yield% IMax.)	O (v. Yield% (Act at (25%)	P/E Railo (Net)	xd adj. 1991 to date	No.	Index No.	Index No.	Index No.
ī	CAPITAL GOODS (188)	863.52	+1.5	12.35	5.57	9.85	0.85	850.87	848.11	841.79	839.1
2	Building Materials (24)	A163.09	+0.5	12,23	5.24	10.06	0.55	1156.91	1154.94	1141,72	
3	Contracting Construction (31)	1406.83	+1.7	12.72	5.56	10.19	3.90	1383.81		1358.79	
				11.94	5.64	10.25	0 80	2364.99	2337.32	2310.18	
5	Electronics (26)	1810.51	+2.1	8.72	4.93	15.26	1.55 0.86	1772.47	1771.71		
6	Engineering-Aerospace (8)	4 428.90	+3.1	15.94 13.43	. 5 42 . 5.87	7.56 8.96	1.15	444.93 434.31	444.04 428.58	440.22 423.67	409.5
8	Electronics (26) Engineering-Aerospace (8) Engineering-General (47) Metats and Metat Forming (81	498 62	#17	18.67	7.06	6.61	0.00	480.38	475.12	464.32	
Ö	Mators (13)	151 23	+2.5	14.18	6.83	8.21	0.00	342.59	343.78	338.91	348
ó	Motors (13) Other Industrial Materials (211	1502.53	+1.5	10.85	5:41	10.66	0.71	1480.90	1482.54		
1	CONSUMER GROUP (182) Brewers and Olstiflers (22) Food Manufacturing (20) Food Retalling (16) Health and Household (21) Hotels and Leisure (22)	1375.06	+1.8	8.81	3.82	14.09	3.44	1351.32	1352.07	1351.66	
2	Brewers and Oistiffers (22)	1708.09	40.9	9.38	3.65	13.13	7.47	1692.94			
5	Food Manufacturing (20)	11139.02	+1.1	10,10	4.27 3.08	12.20 15.56	1.69 3.15	1126 63 2482.69	1130.08 2489.90		
6	Hoolth and Marcabeld (27)	3000-03	+1.4	8.41 6.17	2.65	19.19	0.91	2916.84			
6	Hotels and Leisure (22)	1345 71	+1.7	10.15	5.10	11.70		1323.04			
ñ	Hotels and Leisure (22) Media (25) Packaging & Paper (11) Stores (34) Textiles (11) OTHER GROUPS (110) Business Services (12)	1371.56	+2.0	10 65	5.02	11.86	7.81	1344.51			
ĭ	Packaging & Paper (11)	627.18	+3.6	8.39	5.49	14.61	0.30			603.85	
4	Stores (34)	872.05	+1.3	9.74	4.19	13.36	1.76	860.44		871.33	
5	Textiles (11)	. 512.51	+3.5	10.40	6.26 5.14	12.38 11.23		495 04 1150.98			
0	OTHER GROUPS (110)	.41167.00	+1.4	10.82 11.27	4.86	10.79		1084.51			
1	Business Services (12) Chemicals (21) Conglormerates (11) Transport (15) Electricity (12) Telephone Networks(3) Water(10) Water(10)	1255 03	+1.4	9.72	5.68	12.53		1237.86			
4	Constomerates (11)	1530.39	+0.5	11.15	6.74	10.69	6.83	1522.60	1526.80		
á	Transport (15)	2185.83	+0.2	11.96	4.66	10.31					
5	Electricity (121	[1121.06	-0.2	11.00	6.28	10.97	0.00				
6	Telephone Networks(3)	1314.22	+2.7	10.17	3.85	12.78	0.00 39.69		1294.21 2441.45	1286.42 2431.46	
7	Water(10)	2445.21	+0.3	13.87	5.73 4.90	8.06 11 42	1.37	1830.87			
a.					4.50	12.02				_	
9	INDUSTRIAL GROUP (480)	1189.67	+1.6	10.20	5.67	11.83		2334.50			
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9	500 SHARE (NOEX (500)	1286.95	+1.4	10.32		11.77	2.87	804.57	802.00		
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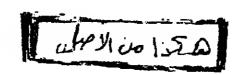
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Samuel Montagu, the merchant hank in the Midland group, made a pre-tax profit of £55m last year. This was down nearly a third on the previous year's £75m. But Mr Christopher Sheridan, the chief executive, said it had been "a good year in

the circumstances".

Although there were no major acquisition deals in the market, tha corporate finance department made a good contribution and increased its market share. There was also a good result from the bank's specialised financing department.

Mr Sheridan said the bank had achieved a better balance in its business, and he expected the result to compare well with with those of other merchant banks. The profit was equivalent to a return of 31 per cent on capital employed, down from 43 per cent a year earlier.

By David Lascelles and David Barchard

DRAMATIC developments at the Midland Bank yestarday left the UK's third largest clearer with a new chairman and chief executive, and shareholders with a halved dividend. Sir Kit McMahon, the executive chairman, announced his

intention to resign next June, when he will be replaced by Sir Peter Walters, the former chairman of British Petroleum. In addition. Mr Brian Pearse, the finance director of Bar-clays, will take over as group

The news accompanied the announcement that Midland had decided to halve its divi-dend to 9p, the first time a clearing bank has taken such a step since World War II. How-ever, the bank managed to report a small profit of £11m in spite of suffering severe loan losses in the UK.
This was a considerable

improvement on analysts' forecasts, which ranged as low as a loss of £100m. In 1989. Midland made a loss of £261m, mainly because of Third World prob-

lem lending.
The markets reacted nervously to the news, with Mid-land's share price rallying from a sharp fall and then later slipping back amid an otherwise buoyant market, to close at 187p, 3p down on the day. Sir Kit said the group's results for 1990 were "unsatis-

factory" hut that action under-taken last year put it in a good eventual economic recovery.
"Our profits were badly hit
by had debts hut we are

£703m, more than double the previous year's £307m. Most of this related to the effects of the UK recession. There was also an excep-

43 per cent a year earlier.

trend in the second half. But

this was reduced by a charge for bad and doubtful debts of

The decision to cut the divi-

Midland made a trading

profit of £743m. down 15 per cent from the 1989 level, though there was an improving

dend hy 50 per cent was "a difficult one" but if the step was to be taken it had to be a

significant reduction.

the circumstances".

tional charge of £52m for the costs of restructuring the group, an exercise which the bank said is now producing results in cost savings.

Total assets were down from £62.48hn to £59.64hn, though this still leaves Midland comfortably cheed of Lloyds its

fortably ahead of Lloyds, its nearest rival among the "Big Four".
During the year, the Group's

pleased with our improvement between the two halves of 1990", he said.

Tier I capital fell by £264m to £2.347bn, while its total capital was down from £4.861hn In UK banking made a loss of £37m (compared to a profit of £406m) after incurring a heavy bad debt charge of £510m. For-ward Trust, Midland's finance bouse subsidiary, made £31m, down from £45m. Profits at 1989 to £4.300bn. This was largely offset by a 10 per cent reduction in welghted risk assets, leaving the total capi-tal/risk assets ratio at 9.8 per other associeted banking seccent. (10 per cent) The equity/ assets ratio was 4.3 per cent, down from 4.6 per cent a year

tor companies were down from 235m to £14m.

Profits at Midland Montagu fell to £71m from £79m, in spite of increased trading profits, after a bad debt charge of £68m (£58m). Earnings from Green-well Montagu Gilt Edged were strongly up as were contribu-tions from European subsid-

Thomas Cook, the travel services group, achieved record profits of £28m, 26 per cent up on 1989 (£22m), in what seemed to he a good performance all-round in spite of a

Net interest income was income grew from £1.33hn to £1.43hn. Total group income showed a 1 per cent fall.

The bank's domestic net

interest margin narrowed to 3.5 per cent from 4.1 per cent in 1989, while the international net interest margin was unchanged at 1.8 per cent. The margin for the group as a whole was 2.7 per cent (2.9 per

There was e loss per share of 24.7p (28.3p loss). Net asset value per share was down to 309p from 345p a year ago. The second half dividend was 1.7p (10.7p), making a total of 9p for the year (18.0p).

Calm reaction as dividend is halved

By Richard Lapper

ALTHOUGH THE prospect of a can be guaranteed to spark controversy among the UK's fund managers, institutional investors reacted calmly to the steep but well signalled cut by Midland Bank of its dividend yesterday. The second interim was cut by 9p to 1.7p, halving the total from 18p to 6x. the total from 18p to 9p.
"Midland is seen to be an

exceptional case. The fact that they are paying any dividend at all is a surprise," said one

"We think dividend cuts should happen only in exceptional circumstances, when a company is suffering from secular rather than cyclical prob-

lems," explained tha chief investment manager of another Scottish life insurer, but "Midland's problems are long-term

The view was echoed hy Mr Tom Crombie, of Scottish Equitable. "in most cases we don't want to see cuts but in some cases it may be necessary. Midland are quite correct to do what they are doing. They are following an appropriate policy hut I wouldn't expect all of British industry to do the

Another investment manager with a UK composite insurer said that he recognised Midland's inability to maintain "a progressive dividend policy"

Britdoc Worldwide

with earnings being "smoothed

out in the long term."
In Midland's case two years of losses and the prospect of a further difficult year in 1991 meant that a severe cut "had to be made" to reduce the possibility of having to make more cuts in future, "The last thing you want to see is a dividend cut one year and then another cut the next year," he added. Mr John Parrott of Commer-

The group suffered a tax

charge of £188m compared with a credit of £57m in 1989. This

increase occurred largely because the board decided it

was prudent to write off £259m of accumulated deferred tax

relief. This brought the after-tax result to a loss of £177m compared with a loss of £204m

Group costs rose by 4 per cent to £2.395bn, while the cost/income ratio - one of the main targets for improvement

over the past three years -rose to 76.3 per cent (72.4 per cent), the highest level ever for

Midland or any other large clearing hank.

the year before.

cial Union agrees. "It is better to get the pain over with. Insti-tutions look for consistency as the minimum requirement, Seeing a dividend consistently being chopped back isn't a good sign. It indicates continu-ing problems."

According to Mr Clive Gil-christ, the chairman of the investment committee of the National Association of Pension Funds, dividend policy as well as what actually happens to the dividend itself is impor-tant. "Where companies are going wrong is not to tell shareholders what its policy is in determination of the dividend. I'd like them to state what their policy is and then stick to to it so that we don't have the uncertainty.'

Fund managers have been accused of short-termism, added Mr Gilchrist, but "its easier to take a long-termylew when companies tell you what their long-term policies are."

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INTERIM FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS Half Year to 31 December 1990 (unaudited)

Hays

PROFIT BEFORE TAX £27.3M* £27.5M +1% **EARNINGS PER ORDINARY SHARE** 4.70P* 4.74P +1% **NET DIVIDEND PER ORDINARY SHARE** +13%

Hays Distribution

Services Ltd

THE BUSINESS SERVICES GROUP "PROFORMS ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE CAPITAL STRUCTURE FOLLOWING THE LISTING IN CITIZETS 1989 PAD EXTED STACE 1 JULY 1989. IF YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN A COPY OF THE 1991 INTERIOR STATEMENT, PLEASE CONTACT DAVID BECKLEY, HAYS FICK MAYS HOUSE MILLIARD, GUILDFORD, SURVEY GITS SHITTEFFICK, 0483 392203 THIS ADVERTISEMENT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY TOUCHE ROSS & CO WHIG STATEMENT, PLEASE CONTACT DAVID BECKLEY, HAYS FICK MAYS HOUSE MILLIARD, GUILDFORD, SURVEY SHITT, SHITTING OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTAINTS IN ENGLAND AND VIZILES.

Benlox aims for relisting of shares

By Maggle Urry

BENLOX, the construction vehicle leasing and property group whose shares have been temporarily suspended at 3p since April last year, yester-day said that it expected to publish accounts for 1989 and 1990 "in the not too distant futore".

The company is aiming to have its shares relisted. Benlox, remembered for launching an audacious £2bn takeover bid for Storehouse, the retail group, in 1987 and for once being a joint-owner of

the prestigious Wentworth gold course, has been selling businesses to reduce debt. Bank debts were now below £1m, and should fall further, Benlox said, as land sales are completed.
Mr Bob Hankes-Drielsma.

chairman, said that the pres-ent management had worked for a year with the aim of starting afresh as a viable con-

He said that Benlox has about 5,000 small shareholders who have been pressing the Stock Exchange for the company to make a statement and that a relisting was in their

The group said that its losses for 1990 would be "very substantial". Last year it said results for 1989 would he "worse than expected". The last reported trading figures showed a £1.8m pre-tax loss for the first half of 1989. Only the construction division had done well in 1990, Benlox said, and had a good order book.

done well in 1990, Benlox said, and had a good order book.

Mr Nigel Wright, a non-executive director, has resigned from the hoard. Mr Paul Bloomfield, a property trader who owns 29 per cent of Benlox shares, is an executive director.

Omni gives ILG £40m

By David Churchill Leisure Industries Correspondent

International Leisure Group, the tour operator and airline business, confirmed yesterday it had last week received the extra £40m re-financing from Mr Werner Rey's Omni Hold-ings agreed late last year. ILG had been concerned over speculation that Mr Rey's own financial re-structuring in

AGAINST a background of a severe downturn in the UK construction sector, Freeman Group, the USM-quoted conditions.

boosted the pre-tax tax figure to 276.97m, reflecting acquisitions.

The interest charge surged to 2479,000 (£178,000), as the recent days would affect its operations. However, it maintained that the re-financing package

agreed last December was not threatened by these changes. It also confirmed that the shareholding in ILG was through Omni and not Harpe-ner, the German industrial conglomerate which Mr Bey

Hammerson secures New York letting comprises 590,000 sq ft of office and retail space. stem from extensive building programmes during the 1980s, combined with the effects of

HAMMERSON, the property investment group, has let part of a new office development at 420 Fifth Avenue, New York, to Cable News Network, a subsidiary of Turner Broadcasting System, writes Vanessa Houlder, Property Correspon-

The building, which occupies a complete hlock frontage between 37th and 38th street, is scheduled for completion CNN is taking 59,000 sq ft of the 30 storey building which

about \$50 (£26.50) per square Hammerson said that the leasing market in New York was as difficult as in London.

It believed that securing CNN as a tenant would pave the way for other prospective

The high vacancy rates in the New York property market

property group, has let most of a 60,000 sq ft office development in Holborn, ahead of its completion. Tha tenants are Bird & Bird, solicitors, who will pay an overall rent of £41 per square foot

Exceptionals boost Wates City By Vanesaa Houlder, Property Correspondent

WATES CITY of London, the

only UK property company to hold all its assets in the City of London, yesterday announced a 17 per cent fall in net asset value from 300.2p to 250.2p for

Pre-tax profits for the year increased from £10.22m to £30.53m, helped by a £22.09m exceptional item. The exceptional item stemmed from a £27.02m profit on the disposal of interests in three properties, a provision of

tile properties and a £1.67m write-off for abortive work on its City Plaza scheme over London Wall. The full in asset values reflected a 20 per cent fall in

investment properties. The development portfolio pro-duced a mixed result, with a fall of more than 20 per cent in the case of Winchester House but a rise from its Vintners Place development, which was the subject of a joint venture with Sumitomo Corporation in December.

Mr James Dundas Hamilton, the chairman said: Tam hope-ful of a return to both rental and capital growth in the City during 1992. Wates City is well placed to take advantage of any revival in demand, having pursued a policy of creating what are now called 'trophy buildings'.

Net rents receivable decreased by 2 per cent to

£14.83m, as a result of gaining vacant possession of a Cheap-side building prior to redevel-opment and the planned run down of income from Winchestar House in Old Broad The interest costs less investment income increased

from £2.4m to £3.88m.
At tha year end, nat debt was £75.5m, with gearing of £5 per cent. £arninga per share increased from 7.16p to

A final dividend of 2.960 was proposed, which together with the interim dividend of 0.77p, gives a total of 3.73p (3.39p), a 10 per cent increase. COMMENT

When a company is completely exposed to the worst sector of the worst UK property market in living memory, reasons to be cheerful are in short supply. Nonetheless, the company puts e brave face on it, emphasising the relative shortage of large modern City buildings and the appetite of Japanese investors for trophy properties, which has been moted in recent months but may well reappear. Unfortunately the good news is swamped by the bad. The City vacancy rate is 16 per cent and rising, rents are down by 15 per cent and falling, large parts of the financial services industry are chedding labour and try are shedding labour and improvements to transport may make the Docklands an

increasingly credible alterna-tive. Accordingly, it seems pos-sible that the net asset value could drop again this year, perhaps hy as much as 10 per cent. Using this admittedly

bearish assumption, the share price, down 3p to 162p after a good performance so far this year, is on a prospective discount of 28 per cent. MAYNE NICKLESS FINANCE PLC

£40,000,000 7% GUARANTEED SUBORDINATED CONVERTIBLE BONDS **DUE 1994** (the "Bonds")

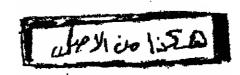
Notice is hereby given that on 8th February, 1991, Mayne Nickless Finance plc (the "Company") resolved to change its name to "Mayne Nickless Europe plc". This name change takes effect from 1st March, 1991.

In all other respects, the Company's obligations pursuant to the Bonds continue on the same terms and conditions as previously.

The Bonds are now designated in the Stock Exchange Daily Official List under "Mayne Nickless Europe plc".

No new definitive bonds will be printed nor will any existing definitive bonds require to be stamped to evidence the change of name of the Company.

Dated 1st March 1991 This notice appears as a matter of record only.



Williams falls to £126m after homes and gardens downturn year ago, after all, they would hardly have expected to see the WILLIAMS HOLDINGS, the sion, which includes Smallbone and Amdega, the conservatory exit of Crown Berger or the builder, making a small loss. As yet, he said, there was no sign that falls in UK interest antry of Yale and Valor. Twelve months from now there is no knowing what further acquisitions the two restless rates were boosting demand. As a whole the consumer and huilding products sida, which as well as homes and

acquisitions the two restless axecutives will have landed. The key to 1991 results lies both in the speed of the pick-up in the UK and North America and in what can be squeezed out of Yale. The company is not saying much about the latter, but the joh should at least he less time-consuming and less complicated than the Filgrim Honse/Kidde turnaround How much fat remains around. How much fat remains to be cut out of a company which has been under pressure for a couple of years is another matter. As for the immediate ontlook, it appears that the second half slowdown in the loss making homes and gar-dens business, US fire protec-tion and DIY is at least not getting any worse. But it is anyone's guess how soon inter-est rates will fall by enough to

revive the consumer side, while the weakness of the dol-lar is still a hurdle in the US. The shares have had a good run since the Yale bid but at 278p are on a multiple of some

judgement of chief executive and chairman Messrs McGo-wan and Rudd. This tima a the consumer products side during the second half, with the homes and gardens divi-Expamet declines to £12.8m

which as well as nomes and gardens includes do it yourself products such as Polyceil, suffered a 10.3 per cent fall in trading profits for the year to £53.8m. The industrial and military products division fared better seeing only a 2.9 per

better, seeing only a 2.9 per

cent drop in trading profits to £70.5m. Businesses sold con-tributed £11.9m (£27.1m). Aftar a slightly lower tax

Aftar a slightly lowar tax rate, the group made a £72m extraordinary gain, largely the profit on the Crown sale. Fully diluted earnings fell 12.7 per cent to 22.7p a share. The final dividend of 7.25p (7p) gives a total of 12p (11.5p) a 4.3 per cent rise. The dividend is covered 1.9 times by earnings, down from 2.3 times for the 1989 nevout.

Shareholders in Williams should realise by now that

they are really backing the

A SUBSTANTIAL downturn in trading during the second half meant pre-tax profits of Expamet International, the interna-tional huilding products, secu-rity and industrial products company, fell from £13.6m to £12.8m during the 1990 year.

By Maggie Urry and Tim Dickson

conglomerate which has just

won its £404m takeover bid for

Yale & Valor, the locks and domestic appliances group, reported a 14.2 per cent fall in

pre-tax profits for 1990. The total was £126.1m

(£147.0m), just beating the fore-cast of £125m made with the bid in January. Williams

sbares rose 2p to 278p.
Turnover for the group —
whose hetter known products

include Smallbone kitchens and Polycell DIY - was 14.8

per cent lower at £833.6m, partly because of the £205m sale of Crown Berger, the UK paint business, in May 1990. A fall in interest charges in

the second half of tha year, thanks to the proceeds from the Crown sale, offset a worsening trading profit trend. The interest charge for the year

was £10m, down from £12.9m. For the year trading profits

were 14.9 per cent lower at £136.1m, but this included an

18.9 per cent drop in second half trading profits. Mr Tim Allen, a director of corporate finance at Williams, said there had been a worsen-

ing in trading conditions for

Turnover increased from £150.6m to £159m.
Mr Jeremy Beasley, chairman, said: "These results do not match our expectations, even at the interim stage," when Expamet had reported profits 14 per cent higher at 56.3m. He said that so far in the current year he had seen no improvement in trading from the much lower levels of the final quarter, when the company had been hit by a substantial downturn in

tracting services and insula-

tion distribution specialist, reported only a marginal

Profits before tax and an exceptional credit fell by 6 per

cent from £2.46m to £2.31m.

However, the excaptional

£197,000, which arose mainly

from the sale of premises,

closed, was believed to be

demand in the UK. However, after a much lower 53.08m (£4.02m) tax charge, earnings per share held their own at 20.8p (21.31p). The final dividend is being maintained at 6.2p making a 10.38p (10p) total. There was a £4.93m extraor-

dinary dehlt - against a £7.14m credit last time - for sale of businesses designated

Mr Beasley says debt reduction is the big financial objective

for 1991, and a good thing too. He is budgetting for borrow-ings of \$21m at the end of the

contract valuations on the fire

protection side of Freeman Contracts had revealed that

some of the contracts had been

"Optimistically valued". In the circumstances the company

had felt it prudent to make provisions against a possible £300,000 shortfall.

Turnover rose from £52.88m

the recession on New York's

tenants, which are principally

corporate headquarters, finan-cial markets and husiness ser-

Great Portland Estates, the

and reducing working capital. It is not the best climate to do these things, but even if Expa-met manages them its share-holders will still face a pretty dismal ontlook this year. No one expects the dividend to he increased. Also, whatever happens on the trading front, the freakishly low tax charge is not going to be repeated so earnings per share are bound to be lower. The shares are not even at particularly depressed levels at the moment and stand on a prospective p/e of 11 assuming the company makes £12m pre-tax for the year. Shareholders might comfort themselves with the reflection that Expannet still reigns supreme in the world of bladder accumulators.

year, to be achieved mainly through selling some small remaining non-core husinesses Freeman Group static with £2.3m

effects of the French acquisi-

and gearing now stands at 42 per cent. The interest cover has fallen from 14.8 to 5.8.

diluted fell to 26.1p (26.7p) and a final dividend of 5.5p (5.35p)

makes a total for the year of

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8.5p (8.1p).

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ONDS

POLYPIPE, the Doncaster-based maker of plastic pipes and fittings, is raising £13.6m via a share issue to fund a series of acquisitions.

The funding exerciae involves the placing of 9.3m shares at 150p each, compared with yesterday's unchanged closing price of 165p. Polypipe also announced a

3.7 per cent increase in pre-tax profit to £5.27m (£5.08m) for the six months to December 31, on sales of £33.87m (£33.71m). In December, the group had alm cash in the hank after paying £450,000 for the first of the

Spools, a maker of such products as cotton reels.

Mr Jack Green, financial and commercial director, said up to £9.2m more was committed to two other companies, both

recent acquisitions, Plastic

acquired from receivers.

merged with the established Procell Plastics business, had

A further £1.3m was duc to go out for Oasis Leisure, a garden furniture company which also had heavy working capital requirements.

in a full year, the three new business would bring in turnover of about £20m, he said. Mr Kevin McDonald, chair-

man and managing director. said Oasls had particular potential as it took Polypipe into a new area and brought in bigger moulding machines. Its seasonal imbalance could be tackled by moving into other products.

An imminent fourth acquisltion in one of Polypipe's core areas would mop up the remaining, which was about acquired from receivers.

Premier Profiles, a maker of window parts which would be

£4m, taking into account working capital and the cost of relocation, he said. At the end of

the process, the group would be free of debt.

The share offer, arranged by Panmurc Gordon, enables share holders to apply for new stock on a 1-for 7.25 basis. Mr McDonald and Mr Geuffrey Harrison, technical director. are not taking up their entitlement to 3.6m shares. The direc-tors' bolding will fall from 40

Earnings per share improved during the first half to 5.05p (1.92p) and the interim dividend rises by 9 per cent to 1.2p (1. ip).

• COMMENT

Polypipe has taken advantage of a near 50 per cent improve-ment in its share price since last September tu digest a bulge of acquisitions without becoming geared. And who can hiame them, especially when the institutions seem to have such a strong appetite for qual-

ity small company shares. It seems likely that the money will prove well spent. The com-pany has, on the whoic, a good

record for integrating and improving acquisitions. The move, via Ossis, into a different market seems particularly wise as strong positions have already been built up in its core "above and below-ground" pipe markets. The interim figures showed just how flat, or worse, these traditional mar-kets are, and there was some disappointment over problems arising from a factory move by Derwent MacDee, a toilet seat maker. A full year profit fore-cost of £13.5m (£13.4m) gives a prospective pie of about 12 (or just under 11 on the issue price). The bargain factor has long gone, but the shares are less expensive than some in the building materials sector and the company has consider-

able strengths.

leaves Hays static at £27.5m

Weak leg

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By Oavid Owen

RESILIENT performances from two out of three divisions enabled Hays, the husiness services group, to report a marginal upturn to £27.5m in interim pre-tax profits.

The odd unit out was personnel, which registered a 35 per cent operating profit decline. The group said that "speedy action" taken in response to dimin-isbed demand and that all overheads had been "substantially reduced."
The weak leg in the tripod

was sufficient to drag group operating profits for the six months to December 31 down hy 5 per cent to £27.7m.

The marginal improvement at the taxable level from £27.3m came via a sharp reduction to just £200,000 (£1.9m) in the group's net interest costs. That was partly tbanks to the crediting of £1.8m of income from interest caps on £120m of debt that the company had the foresight to put in place three years ago. "It has been bloody diffi-cult," said Mr Romie Frost,

chairman and chief executive, admitting to being "a bit dis-appointed" at the marginal nature of the profits advance.

Turnover in the half year was fractionally down at £342m (£343m). Comparative figures have been prepared on a pro-forma basis on the assumption that the capital structure existing following Hays' October 1989 stock markct listing had existed since July 1 1989.

By division, operating profits from distribution were somewbat below expectation at £14.1m (£13.5m). Comme cial services, however, mani-fested strong growth to £6.9m (£5.4m), with the Britdoc docu-ment exchange network the

largest contributor.
Personnel fell from £10.3m
to £6.7m – a figure which
masked a decline of less than 20 per cent in the group's key accountancy personnel husi-

The group said that It was expecting year-end deht to be below the £24m level recorded at June 30 1990. Shareholders' funds have risen to approxi-

mately £104m.
Earnings per sbare amounted to 4.74p (4.7p). An interim dividend of 1.3p 1.15p) was declared - an increase of 13 per cent.

The shares, which have climbed steeply in recent weeks, closed down Ip at 122p. @ COMMENT

Last month's rapid advance in Hays' sbare price snggests that institutional awareness of

the group's sound qualities as a defensive play is on the increase. Put bluntly, the shown that it can keep rolling along even with one wheel off lts tricycle. The comparatively healthy state of its balance-sheet provides further grounds for confidence in the future. If there is a questionmark it is over whether or not the shares remain good value after their heady February galns. With full-year profits of around £58m forecast, the multiple of

BTP, the specialist chemicals and industrial group, is huy-ing Avalon Adhesives from ICI for £3.5m. The purchase is

Avaion made pre-tax profits of £800,000 in 1990 on sales of

ties as carrying out "green audits" of portfolios, typically on behalf of local authority

Second half fall at Templeton Galbraith By Phillp Coggan, Personel Finance Editor

THE EFFECT of the Gulf crisis on world stock markets, com-hined with a sharp rise in costs, caused second half pre-tax profits at Templeton Gal-

tax profits at Templeton Gal-braith Hansberger to fall by 17.3 per cent from \$33.6m to \$27.8bn (£14.6bn). Full year profits for 1990 of the Bahamas-based fund man-agement group, which reports in US dollars, fell only 1.1 per cent to \$63.1m (\$53.8m). cent to \$63.1m (\$63.8m). Total assets under manage-

ment at the end of 1990 were \$15.9bn, down from \$17.5bn at the close of the previous year. The fall was caused by the downturn in markets which reduced funds by \$2.1bn; this was countered by a net \$500m inflow from the excess of mutual fund sales ovar

redemptions and in additional client funds Although turnover actually increased to \$175.6m (\$156.7m), profits were pegged back by a 42 per cent jump in administrative expenses to \$57.8m

This increase followed the purchase of Dais Group, a US quantitative research group, and the conversion of Time Assurance into Templeton Life Assurance. Neither contributed to profit in 1990. A lower tax charge of \$5.04m

(\$8.38m) helped earnings per share rise to 36.3 cents (34.6 cents). The final dividend is being increased to 10 cents (9 cents) making a total of 15

cents (13 cents). Mr Tom Hansberger, chief

reported pre-tax losses of

£647,000 for 1990 compared

with profits of £1.26m, writes Michiyo Nakamoto.

(£24.64m) but operating profit fell sharply to £235,000 (£2.24m). Losses per share were 2.1p (4p earnings). The divi-dend is being passed. There was an extraordinary

loss of £5,52m (£984,000) stemming from the disposal in

November of Bonser, its Mid-lands-based subsidiary which

manufactures bathroom fit-

tings, and a provision against losses on the proposed disposal of Cooper Ludlam, a cutlery

manufacturer.

Turnover rose to £25.95m

executive, in his outlook for the markets, said that "at no other time in the past 50 years a period of potentially beneficial change.

"The erosion of communism continues to be a major influ-ence in building worldwide economic growth. Over the long term, the trend towards free markets and greater pros-perity will prevail."

- COMMENT

Those who backed Mr Templeton's fund management record when his company floated in 1986 have had scant reward so far. The shares, which closed at 216p yesterday, are just 1p higher than the issue price. But the future may be somwhat brighter. The company's funds under management and earnings per share have more than doubled since flotation; so the current share price can scarcely be classed as expensive. Fund managers prosper in rising markets and the receot bull run has duly allowed Templeton's shares to jump 20 per cent since January I. And a rebound in the US dollar, which many expect,

should also boost Templeton's shares. However, there will still be those who dislike the restricted availability of the stock and the Bahamas domicile; and there will he others who will want to wait to see how well the company bandles its recent diversi

Ross moves back into the Admiral 23% higher in black with £989,000

ROSS GROUP, the USM-quoted electronics and packaging company best known for its head-phones, moved back into the hlack with pre-tax profits of 12989,000 for the year to December 31 1990. This compares with a pre-tax loss of £485,000 for the nine months to December 1000 for the nine months to December

A series of acquisitions – Giltpack, Kirkhams, Cotswold Enterprises and Wesglade Electrics - broadened the comp pany's product base and helped boost turnover from £6.14m to

The directors reported a recovery in the consumer electronics husiness, with controls. introduced by the new board

and greeting card distributor which is being acquired in a

Crown Comms

its debt

CROWN Communications, the USM-quotad broadcasting

usm-quotad producting group which revealed in January that its debts had mounted to £18m, is set to announce a much-needed inflow of funds.

It has reached a settlement with British Sky Broadcasting.

with British Sky Broadcasting, the satellite television venture, over the cancellation of news and other current affairs programmes for British Satellite Broadcasting, BSB merged with Mr Rupert Murdoch's Sky Television last November.

The amount of compensation involved was described by BSkyB as not as high as the £4m which has been rumoured.

Society

For the three month period from 5 March, 1991 to 5 June, 1991

ne Notes will bear interest at the rate of 12,925 per cent, per aintenn.

The Coupon amounts will be £162,89 per £5,000 Note and

£325,78 per £10,000 Note,

payable on 5 June, 1991

Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited

Sgent Bank . . .

set to reduce

By Jane Fuller

contributing to improved prof-Earnings per share came out at 43p (5p losses). There is a second interim dividend of

0.75p in lieu of a final, making 1.25p for the year (nil). • Whittington, the giftware-

Bonser's pre-tax losses were

£401,000 while its interest charges comprised 60 per cent of the group's overall interest charges at £882,000. Whittington is a Macsel, a profitable greeting cards distributor acquired for 28.6m in June 1989. This leaves it with Images and Editions, a greeting cards husiness

acquired in April last year.

JUPITER Tarbutt Merlin, the

privately-owned fund manage-ment group best known for its

green activities, plans to join the main market via a reverse

takeover of Vantage Securities,

an investment trust which it

ised at £2.6m, is acquiring all the share capital of JTM for

\$10.7m. The consideration is to be satisfied by the issue of 11.5m Vantage ordinary shares at 92.1p each, the trust's unaudited fully diluted net asset

value at February 28. Shares in Vantage, which is

Vantage, currently capital-

By Clare Pearson

advises.

spite of slacker demand

By Alan Cane

MARKED aversion to risks in a sector slippery with banana skins helped Admiral, the Surrey-based computing services company, to its fifth successive increase in earnings per share in spite of slackening demand in its key markets.

Pre-tax profits for the year ended December 31 were up 23 per cent to £3.28m while sales were up 33 per cent to £21.21m. : Earnings per share showed a

20 per cent increase to 19.4p and a recommended final dividend of 2.88p makes a 4.2p (3.5p) total. The company had cash bal-ances of £2.81m (£2.3m) at yearend and net interest on the cash contributed £495,000, an

chairman, said the company

and its warrants at 36p. The acquisition is subject to

approval of its shareholders at

an egm on March 28. JTM, which was formed from

the merger of three investment operations in the late 1980s,

has about £426m worth of

funds under management. Mr John Duffield, JTM's

chairman, said the company planned to expand after gain-

ing its stock market listing.

and in particular wanted more pension fund business.

takeover would remove the

constraint on growth caused

Vantage said the reverse

increase of 63 per cent on 1989. to pre-tax profits. Admiral's chie the defence and financial services sectors, both of which have experienced significant downturns in recent years. Mr Clay Brendish, Admiral's

was lean and fit. He added that it had continued to grow strongly in defence and financial services because it had chosen to work in areas that had proved relatively recession

COMMENT

The recession is sorting out the sheep from the goats in com-puting services with a ven-geance. Admiral's strength is its reluctance to take risks and the careful management procedures it has put in place to ensure that it is never know-ingly overexposed. Nevertheless, with sales of over £20m it is reaching toe point where it can no longer expect to sustain Its growth in services pure and simple and a lot will depend on the rate of growth of its newly Admiral Software, currently turning over about £1m . Ana

on the stock market.

ment vehicles.

lated dilution, of 32.9 per cent to 88.3p for the year to end De

cember. The dividend for the

year is unchanged at 3.5p.

JTM acquired an ecological

reputation after it merged with

Merlin, a unit trust manage-

ment company, in June 1969. It

now manages two green invest-

It also has a research depart-ment involved in such activi-

of Carat, all payable in cash apart from £38m which can be

settled in either cash or shares.

Mr Scott said the hoard was

Aegis is a complicated com-

pany, possibly a little too com-

nange of name and a stream

of new shares has depressed its

ahare price almost as much as

the sob storles of the less suc-

cessful members of the market-

ing services sector. This set of results was well in line with

issuing yet more new shares in

COMMENT

lysts are suggesting pre-tax profits of £3.8m for 1991, and this seems perfectly achievable on the 1990 performance. Jupiter Merlin to reverse into Vantage

The trust also announced a decline in NAV per share, before allowing for warrani-re-

above 12 indicates they are not a snip. The group's track record is good enough to sug-gest that investment abould still pay off for long-term holders, bowever.

BTP adhesive buy

being funded via a vendor pla-cing of 1.9m new shares at 180p each.

£5.3m. Its tangible assets are valued at £2.4m.

to assume JTM's name, were yesterday suspended at 86p by the discount to net assets at which investment trusts trade pension funds. Restructured Aegis posts 67% increase

AEGIS, the revamped and reorganised media huying group, yesterday announced a 67 per cent increase in profits before tax and extraordinary items from £40.5m to £67.8m for 1990, despite a slowdown in the European advertising industry. Mr Peter Scott, chairman and chief executive, said the group had "continued to huild market share" across Europe throughout last year. The uncertainty caused by the Gulf war had "softened" the market in the first two months of this year, but Mr Scott was confi-dent it would meet its original growth target by the end of the

Aggis was formed last spring Aggs was formed tast symp after the old WCRS Group reduced its investment in advertising – by selling con-trol of its agencies to Eurocom of France – in order to concentrate on media buying through Carat, the Paris-based buying

it also withdrew from public relations last autumn by selling Creamer Dickson International to Eurocom, but has

since continued the expansion of its media buying interests across Europe and has also extended its sponsorship In fact, the shape of the

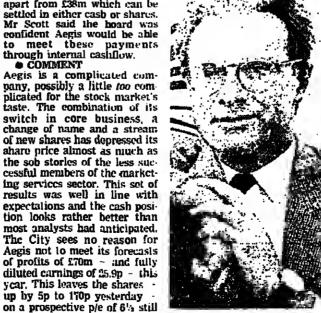
group has changed so dramatically that it is difficult to draw meaningful comparisons between its 1989 and 1990 figures. However, turnover increased to £1.72bn (£592.56m) in 1990 and operating profits to £72.77m (£47.73m). Undiluted earnings per share

rose to 37.35p (28.0p) and fully dlluted earnings to 25.62p (24.9ip). The board proposed an increase in the final dividend to 3.1p (2.5p) making a total of 5.85p (2.5p).
Aegis paid reduced interest

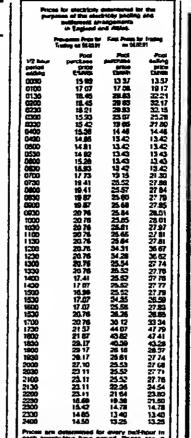
of £4.96m (£7.23m) on lower net debt - thanks to improved working capital and asset dis-posals - of £37m (£72m). However Mr Scott said the rate of debt reduction was likely to be "less dramatic" this year given that Aegis has "aignificant cash commitments". The group has future liabili-

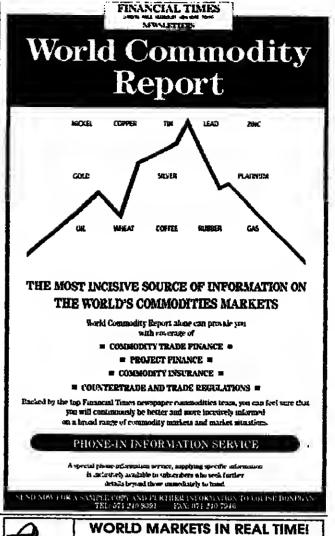
ties of £86.3m for the vendors

expectations and the cash position looks rather better than most analysts had anticipated. The City sees no reason for Aegis not lo meet its forecasts of profits of £70m - and fully diluted carnings of 25.9p - this year. This leaves the shares up by 5p to 170p yesterday on a prospective p/e of 61/4 still depressed by the prospect of



Peter Scott: continuing to





£310 per month

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UNAUDITED RESULTS FO	R THE SIX MONT	HS ENDED 31	DECEMBER 1990
	£000	£000	£000
	1990	1989	30 June 1990
Turnover	167,508	179,486	399,940
Pre tax profit	8,152	11,251	27,306
Earnings per share	4.0p	5.9p	14.0p
Dividends per share	2.0p	2.0p	5.75p

"The strengths and resilience of the Group are reflected in these results, and the directors are pleased to recommend a maintained dividend of 2.0p. The Group's balance sheet remains strong and I am confident of a satisfactory performance in the full year."

PLÓMB

HASSALL

Peter W. Parkin, Chief Executive

Copies of the Interim Report are obtainable after 14 March 1991 From Raine Expustres ple, Raine House, Ashbourne Road, Markworth, Derry DEJ 4NB.



WATMOUGHS (HOLDINGS) PLC

High quality specialist printers by gravure and offset litho

Another year of growth

For the year ended 31 December 1990

1989 Profit before tax £11·620m £10·157m Group turnover £101.963m £86.343m Earnings per share 32.45p 29.71p* 8.54p* Dividend per share 10.25pAdjusted for 1 for 5 enpitalisation issue

Chairman and Chief Executive Mr Patrick Walker, said: "Group activities continue to expand through a combination of strong and developing market positions and investment in the most advanced technology".

> Shareholders' interim report available from the Secretary, Watmoughs (Holdings) PLC, Jason House, Hillam Road, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD2 1QN.

However, along with prog-ress on the sale of stakes in commercial radio companies, the inflow of money will clearly ease the problems at Crown, which owns the LBC radio stations in London. An announcement is expected later this week.

After Crown disclosed an annual pre-tax profit of just £700,000 (£6.2m) and passed its final dividend in January, the share price sank to 23p. It has since recovered to 45p. Halifax Building Floating Rate Loan Notes 1992

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UK GOVERNMENT ECU TREASURY BILLS

For tender on 12 March 1991

1. The Bank of England announces the issue by Har Majesty's Treasury of ECU 1,000 million nominal of UK Government ECU Treasury Bills, for tander on a bid-yiald basis on Tuesday, 12 March 1991. An additional ECU 50 million nominal of Bills will be aliotted directly to the Bank of England.

2. The ECU 1,000 million of Bills to be issued by tender will be dated 14 March 1991 and will be in the following

ECU 300 million for maturity on 11 April 1991 ECU 300 million for maturity on 13 Juna 1991 ECU 400 million for maturity on 12 September 1991

3. All tenders must be made on the printed application forms available on request from tha Bank of England. Completed application forms must be lodged, by hand, at the Bank of England, Securities Office, Threadneedle Street, London not later than 10.30 a.m., London time, on Tuasday, 12 March 1991. Payment for Bills allotted will be due on Thursday, 14 March 1991.

4. Each tander at each yield for each maturity must be made on a separate application form for a minimum of ECU 500,000 nominal. Tendars above this minimum must be in multiples of ECU 100,000 nominal.

5. Tandars must be made on a yield basis (calculated on the basis of the actual number of days to maturity and a year of 360 days) rounded to two decimal places. Each application form must state the maturity date of the Bills for which application is made, the yield hid and the amount tendered for.

Notification will be despatched on tha day of the tender to applicants whose tanders have bean accepted in whola or in part. For applicants who have requested credit of Bills in global form to their account with Euro-claar or CEDEL, Bills will be credited in that relavant aystems againat paymant. For applicants who have requested definitive Bills, Billa will be available lor collection at the Securities Office of the Bank of England after 1.30 p.m. on Thursday, t4 March 1991 provided cleared funds have been credited to the Bank of England's ECU Treasury Bills Account No. 59005516 with I hade Bank Blo International Banking Christian Bank with Lloyds Bank Plc, International Banking Division, PO Box 19, Hays Lane House, 1 Hays Lane, London SE1 2HA. Definitiva Bills will be available in amounts of ECU 10,000, ECU 50,000, ECU 100,000, ECU 500,000, ECU 10,000,000 and ECU 10,000,000

7. Har Majesty's Treasury reserva the right to reject any or part of any tendar.

8. The arrangements for the tender are set out in more detail in the Information Mamorandum on the UK Government ECU Treasury Bill programme issued by tha Bank of England on behalf of Har Majesty's Traasury on 28 March 1989, and in supplementa to tha Information Mamorandum, All tanders will be subject to tha provisions of that Information Memorandum (as supplemented),

9. The ECU 50 million of Bills to be allotted directly to the Bank of England will be for maturity on 12 September 1991. These Bills may be made available through sala and repurchasa transactions to the market makers listed in the Information Mamorandum (as supplamanted) in ordar to facilitata settlament.

10. Copies of the information Memorandum (and supplaments to it) may be obtained at the Bank of England: UK Government ECU Trassury Bills are issued undar the Treasury Bills Act 1877, the National Loans Act 1968 and the Treasury Bills Regulations 1968 as

UK COMPANY NEWS

Knight to round off a remarkable career

Andrew Bolger on a changing role at Inchcape

HERE WAS a touch of the Lord Hansons about yesterday's announcement from inchcape, the services and marketing group, that it is to split Sir George Turnbull's roles of chairman end chief executive next

Juat as Lord Hanaon recently said he intended to carry on as chairman of Han-son, the industrial conglomerate, for another six years, Sir George said be would remain as chairman of Inchcape until

1997, when he will be 70.
Sir George said he would oot be an executive chairman, as he was determined not to get "under the feet" of the man who will be the group's new chief executive, Mr Charles Mackay, who currently runs the Far East operations, Inchcape Pacific. On the other hand, Sir

George - a dynamic veteran of the British motor industry said he would certainly oot describe himself as a non-executive chairman.

The next aix years will round off a remarkable career. round off a remarkable career. Sir George, who was knighted last year, rose to be come managing director of British Leyland but quit in 1973 after disagreeing with plana by the board, under Lord Stokes, to centralise the business.

He went off to South Korea to oversee the development of the Hyundai Pony, then from 1974 helped to create a motor industry in Iran for the Shah'a regime. In 1979 hs returned to rationalise Talbot UK for Peugeot, the French motor group, and joined Inchcape in 1984, becoming chairman and chief executive two years later.

Since joining the group, Sir George has transformed a sprawling rag-bag of trading



Sir George - splitting his executive roles

companies, still stuck in the colonial ere, into a tightly managed group with a presence in more than 60 countries. He will oversee the reorganisation of the group, also announced yesterday, into four main business streams, each with a London-based director - motors, marketing and dis-tribution, services and

resources.

By staying on until 1997, Sir George will also bring Inchcape to two watersheds which are crucial for the future of the group - the formal hand-over of Hong Kong to China in 1997 and the taking of control by Toyota, the Japanese car man-ufacturer, of Toyota (GB), its Inchcape-owned British distrib-

BOARD MEETINGS

The following companies have notified dates of board meetings to the Stock Exchange, Such meetings are usually held for the pur-
pose of considering dividends. Official Indica- tions are not available se to whether the dividends are interims or lines and the sub-
divisions shown below are based majnly on last year's timerables.
TODAY

FUTURE DATES	
Indecises-	
Mickegate	Mar. 13
TSW-Television South West	Mar. 14
Yorkshire Television	May. 21
TOTAL TOTAL	
Please-	
Brooks Service	Mar. 21
Emess	Mar. 7
Bluebird Toys	Mar. 18
Cerbo	Mar. 18
Carl Catestan	Mar. 27
Goel Petroleum	MARIE X/

Micrelec shares dive on profits warning

SHARES OF Micrelec, the USM quoted control and Although Hong Kong and instrumentation group special-ising in the oil business, dived China oow account for only 15 per ceot of Inchcape's profits. Sir George remains extremely bullish about the trading prosecutive of the country of the count 46p to 115p yesterday follow-ing a profits warning and news of a dwindling order pects of the crown colony, even after the Chinese takeover.

The directors said the tradi-tional second half increase in sales had failed to materialise, major orders anticipated for Sir George actively lobbled Mr John Major, the then For-eign Secretary, to grant British the end of March had not been received and the level of activ-ity in the installation business had been well below expectapassports to as many Hong Kong residents as possible. He did so on the basis that grant ing British passports as an insurance policy was the best way of persuading Hong Kong residents to stay - and of per-suading the Chinese not to do anything which would make Hong Kong residents wish to

As a consequence, they warned that the results for the year ending March 31 were now expected to be "below cur-

now expected to be "below cur-rent market expectations". Steps had been taken to reduce the cost base, including some redundancies, the effects of which would be incurred in

GrandMet sells pizza chain

Grand Metropolitan, the food drinks and retailing group has sold its Perfect Pizza chain of 150 franchised and four managed units to Scotts Hospi-tality of Toronto, writes Andrew Bolger. Scotts said the deal, thought

to be worth £5m-£6m, brought it the largest take away and delivery pizza chain in England.

The sale is part of Grand-Met's atrategy of tightening the focus of its retail operations. Last month it sold two UK restaurant chains, Pizzaland and Pastificio, for an estimated £20m.

Scotts has four divisions -food services, hotels, transportation/warehousing and photography. Its UK portfolio includes Commonwealth Hotels International, which owns and operates 11 Holiday Inn hotels.

Borthwicks

Borthwicks has paid £2.4m cash for the freehold of Bar-nett & Foster's factory and site at Wellingborough. Vendor

Watmoughs posts record £11.6m in resilient market

By Michiyo Nakamoto

RESILIENCE IN the high quality printing market helped Watmoughs, which produces up-market magazines such as Country Living and Harpers & Queen, post record profits last year for the second year run-Pre-tax profits in the year

to 31 December rose to £11.62m from £10.12m previously. This follows a 49 per cent increase in pre-tax profits in

Turnover, which excaeded \$100m for the first time, was up 18 per cent to £101.96m (£86.34m). Profit margins held firm at 13.8 per ceot in the second half

when economic conditions deteriorated overall.

Mr Patrick Walker, chairman and chief executive, said that the group's high level of husiness in the high quality printing market had led to last year's huoyant performance despite the difficult trading

Neither magazines at the top end of the market nor compa-nies for which it prints had reduced output or quality to any marked degree, ha

The company's volume busi-ness, which includes printing the annual report and accounts for companies such as British Gas, which requires a print

capacity to do high quanty.
high volume jobs.
During the year, the group
renewed its You magazine colour supplement contract with
Tha Mail on Sunday and
added Cosmopolitan, Woman's
Journal and The Times
Saturday Review to its

run of almost three million, had also paid off.

Although competition in the printing industry overall was increasing, Watmoughs benefitted from being one of the few printers in the UK with the capacity to do high quality.

accounts.

A final dividend of 7.75p per ahare is recommended to make a total of 10.25p for the year. This represents an increase of 20 per cent after adjustment is made for the one-for-five capitalisation issue made in April. Earnings per share aftar adjustment for the scrip issue rose to 32.45p (29.71p).

The company plans to con-tinue expansion in continental Europe. It took a 57 per cent-stake in a Hungarian printing company in February and is currently reviewing two joint venture opportunities in Spain for a deal which could be con-cluded within a year. Another targetted area for

expansion is with the newly privatised companies where it has already concluded one con-

Ashley makes German acquisitions for £5.7m

By John Thornhili

ASHLEY GROUP, the Spanish food retailar and window blinds group, is extending its activities into Germany through the acquisition of two window blind companies for £5.7m in cash.

The two businesses are Haller, a Stuttgart-based window hind distributor, and Boden Jalousien, a window hind manufacturer, based near Frankfurt.

The two companies will be combined and run as the Haller Group under the direc-tion of Mr Dietrich Boden, the managing director of the Boden Jalousien business.

it would proceed with its five-

\$27.94m (\$25.06m).

cent of Sterling.

mandatory offer.

for \$18.04m

Robert Fraser

reorganisation

Landhurst, an Ensign Trust offshoot which owns 21.35 per

Simon sells US arm

In a deal worth \$18.04m (£9.5m), Simon Eogineering.

FOR REGULAR

In 1990 these two busine made pre-tax profits of DM 3m (£1m) on sales of DM 12.1m (£4.1m). Combined net assets at completion were DM 5m

Mr Tony Butler, chief execu-tive of Ashley, said the acquisitions gave the company access to the very strong German market. Ashley already ran businesses in France and the Netherlands and the integration of those Continental company access the continental company access to the continental company access to the continental company access to the continental company access to the continental company access to the continental company access to the continental company access to the continental company access to the compan panies would bring significant financial benefits, he

FIDELITY AMERICAN ASSETS NA

Curação, Netherlands Antilles

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF SHAREHOLDERS

Please take notice that the Annual General Assembly of Shareholders of Fidelity American Assets N.V. (the "Corporation") will take place at 2:00 p.m. at Schottegatweg-Oost 130, Curacao, Netherlands Antilles, on March 19, 1991.

The following matters are on the agenda for this Assembly:

1. Report of the Management.

2. Election of the Managing Directors. The Chairman of the Management proposes the re-election of all present Managing Directors: Edward C. Johnson 3d, Charles T. M. Collis, Charles A. Fraser, H. F. van den Hoven and AMACO Holdings & Trust Company N. V.

3. Ratification of the appointment by the Managing Directors of Charles T. M. Collis as a Managing Director of the Corporation effective April 27, 1990 and acceptance by the Managing Directors of the resignation of Mr. John M. S. Patton as a Managing Director effective that date. 4. Approval of the balance sheet and profit-and-lose statement for the fiscal year

ended November 30, 1990. 5. Ratification of actions taken by the Managing Directors since the last Annual

General Assembly of Shareholders, including declaration of an interim dividend in respect of the fiscal year ended November 30, 1990, and authorisation of the Managing Directors to declare additional dividends in respect of fiscal 1990 if necessary to enable the Fund to qualify for "distributor" status under United Kingdom tax law.

6. Ratification of actions taken by the Investment Manager since the last Annual General Assembly of Shareholders.

Consideration of such other business as may properly come before the Assembly. Approval of each item of the Agenda will require the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast at the Assembly. A form of proxy may be obtained from the following institutions:

> 33. Boulevard Prince Henri Boîte Postale 403 L-1724 LUXEMBOURG Fidelity Investments (C. I.) Limited 40, The Esplanade St. Helier, Jersey CHANNEL ISLANDS Fidelity International Management Holdings Limited Oak Hill House 130 Tonbridge Road

Hildenborough Kent TNII 9DZ, ENGLAND Holders of registered shares may vote by proxy by mailing a form of proxy obtained from

to the Corporation at the following address: Fidelity American Assets N.V. c/o Amaco Holdings & Trust Company N.V. Post Office Box 3141

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

Brown Brothers Harriman

(Luxembourg) S.A.

Holders of bearer shares may vote by proxy by mailing a form of proxy and certificate of deposit for their shares obtained and filed in the manner described in the preceding sentence. Alternatively, holders of bearer shares wishing to exercise their rights personally at the Meeting may deposit their shares, or a certificate of deposit therefor, with the Corporation at Schotzgarweg-Oost 130, Curacao, Netherlands Antilles, against receipt therefor, which receipt will entitle said bearer shareholder to exercise such rights.

the Corporations's principal office in Pembroke, Bermuda, or from the Institutions listed above,

All proxies (and certificates of deposit issued to bearer shareholders) must be received by the Corporation not later than 1:00 p. m. on March 19. 1991, in order to be voted at the

By order of the Management Charles T. M. Collis



LEGAL NOTICE

MOTICE IS HERGBY GIVEN, purpuant to Section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1995, that of meeting of the unsecured oraditors of the above named compuny will be held at 35. Newholl Street, Straingham 53 3DX on Tuesday 19 March 1991 at 2.30 pm for the purpose of having laid before it copy of the report brepared by the Administrative Receiver under section 46 of the said Act. The meeting may, it it hinks fit, establish o committee to exercise the functions conferred on creditors' committees by or under the Act.

Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not equitied to extend or be represented at the meating. Other creditors are only enti-ted to vote if:

(b) there has been lodged with us any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his or behalf.

John F Powell and David J Corney Joint Administrative Receivers

MANAGEMENT **EDUCATION** & DEVELOPMENT

The FT proposes 10 publish this survey on 9th April 1991. It will be of particular interest to the 76% of senior husinessmen responsible for training and personnel who are regular FT readers. If you want to reach this important audieoce, call Sara Mason on 071 873

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Second-half recovery for

Sir George's experience of the Far East also informed his decision to strike a deal with

Toyota, whereby the Japanese manufacturer paid £60m to gain cootrol of its Inchcape-

owned British diatributor.

Toyota took a 5 per cent stake in Toyota (GB) last year, will

take another 20 per cent in 1993, and the final 20 per cent

et the start of 1998. Sir George said he knew he

would have to reach a deal

with the Japanese group when It decided to make Toyotas in Derhyshire. He said: "There

waa no way the Japanesa

would build a manufacturing plant here, and not have con-

His judgement seems to be vindicated by the expensive wrangle which has broken out between Nissan, the Japanese motor group, and Missan (UK).

the private company owned by Mr Octav Botnar which distrib-

Although Sir George's level of renumeration will be set hy a sub-committee of the board, no-one expects that the chair-

in 1989, the latest period for which figures are available, he

earned £295,000. By the same

token, no-one really expects him to work any less hard: Sir

George aims to be at his desk

every morning by 7.30am.

The most Sir George will concede is that he bopes to

play a little more golf during his globetrotting to monitor the proposed new structure of Inchcape.

man will suffer a pay cut.

utes its vehicles in Britain.

trol of the distribution."

AS FORECAST at the interim stage Clinton Cards, the greet-ings card retailer which gradu-ated from the USM to the main market in May 1990, reported another successful year.

The company, which revealed a loss of £173,000 at the halfway stage, turned in a 46 per cent advance - from £3.44m to £5.02m pre-tax - at the January 26 year-end. Turnover, including VAT grew to £59.05m (£38.41m) and at the operating level profits were up 44 per cent from

The net interest charge rose to £750,000 (£584,000) and after tax of £1.77m (£1.13m) earnings per ahare came out at 20.4p (16.66p). The recommended final dividend is 3.75p, making

5.25p (4.23p). Mr Don Lewin, chairman said 62 further outlets had been added in the period and the group traded from 225 shops at the year-eod. The acquisition in March 1990 of Selectacard in the north of England marked the company'a first move to the region.

Wyvale Garden Centres 29% ahead

Wyvele Gerden Centres. improved pre-tax profits by 29 per cent from £1.64m to £2.1m in 1990.

Mr Christopher Powell, the chairman, said the recession

and continuing poor economic climete did oot diminish the hoard's confidence in the long-term growth of the garden centre sector of leisure retail-iog. Five edditionel garden centres would become fully operational during 1991, he

The directors are recommending a final dividend of 2.25p, making 3.375p for the year. Earnings per share emerged at 8.6p (6.3p adjusted). Turnover rose by 12 per cent to £18.25m (£18.27m). The company's shares are traded on the USM.

Walter Lawrence in purchase and sale

Walter Lawrence, with interests in housing development, contracting and merchanting, is to acquire the 49 per cent interest in West Venture Development it does not already own for around \$7.8m in cash. Consideration will he pro-vided from the proceeds of the sale of Tricom Supplies, WL's merchanting and plumbing

NEWS DIGEST a to rea The balance will be provided from WL's own resources.

Clinton Cards Further growth for Metal Bulletin

Further growth in the year to end December was reported by Metal Bulletin, the USM-quoted international business publishing company.

Profits before tax rose from

£1.41m to £1.64m and came from increased turnover of 10.8m (£9.97m). Mr Trevor Tarring, chair-man, said that 1990 had seen the installation of a computerised editorial system to which all journals were being trans-

menced on a £500,000 programma to upgrade the editorial offices. An increased final dividend of 4.5p (3.9p) is proposed, making a total of 6.9p (6p) for the year. The dividend comes from earnings per share np from 10.1p to 12.2p

ferred, and work had now com-

Interlink Express declines to £3.1m

Profits before tax of Interlink Express, the USM-quoted overnight parcels delivery service, declined by 13.4 per ceot from £3.58m to £3.1m in the six months to December 31 1990. Turnover Increased hy 8.6 per cent to £25.5m (£23.48m). The interim dividend is maintained at 4.125p, payable from reduced earnings of 12.17p

(14.28p) per share.
Mr Richard Gabriel, the chairman, said the group had achieved an acceptable, albeit reduced, profit margin and had Improved its cash position with net borrowings reduced from £2.1m to less than £700,000 at end-December.
The outlook for husiness in

the UK continued to be dis-conraging, he said. However, he expected the results for the second half to be in line with the compereble period last

Pacer Systems advances 30%

Pacer Systems, the US electronics and aerospace company which is quoted on the USM, lifted pre-tax profits by 30 per cent, from \$1.2m to \$1.56m (£816,000) in 1990.

Earnings per share improved to 18 cents (14 cents) and the directors have declared a final dividend of 3.5 cents (3 cents)making 6.5 cents (8 cents) for the year. Mr John Rennie, the chairman, said the recent Gulf war had helped to cmphasise two

Ashley's shares rose 4p to - 117p on the announcement

The purchaser, Blount, of

supplies operation, which is war gaming and air data the engineering, environmenthe company's military mar-kets remained relatively strong group, has sold Gear Products of Tulsa, Oklahoma

> year goal to increase commer-cial sales as a proportion of all Montgomery, Alabama, is to pay \$14.56m on completion, with the balance of \$3.48m over Total revenue amounted to four years. In 1989 Gear Products made pre-tax profits of \$1.69m from

Mr Brian Kemp, Simon's chief executive, said that within the Blount organ-As part of the arrangements for the reorganisation of Rob-ert Fraser Group under Stockisation Gear Products would have greater freedom to develop. Simon would continue style, a new holding company, Stockstyle has been granted a conditional option to acquire to use Gear as a supplier, he

Murray Income net asset value lower -

Robert Fraser Group already Murray Income Trust had a net asset value of 222.60 at Decem-ber 3I compared with 272.80 a owns 29.35 per cent of Sterling. The Takeover Panel has confirmed the option does not impose an obligation to make a

year earlier.

Net revenue for the half year improved from £4.26m to £4.5m for earnings per share of 5.4p (5.13p). As already announced. interim dividends totalling 6.3p will be paid for the year to June 30 1991 and a final of 3.6p



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US agricultural exports expected to plunge \$3bn

US FARM exports, driven in the past hy low prices and export subsidies, are expected to plunge by \$3.1bn this year despite the additional boost provided by the devalued dol-

The US Department of Agriculture is predicting that farm exports will fall to \$37bn, down \$1.5hn from its November forecast. Export volume is expec-ted to plummet to 131m tonnes, from 148.7m tonnes last year.

The brightest spot in the export picture is a spurt in sales of high value exports. boosted by economic growth in major markets and the lower value of the dollar. A good almond crop in California and a poor one in Spain has pro-vided an unexpected boom in nut sales. In the first quarter of the 1991 fiscal year, sales of fruits, vegetables and nuts to the EC rose by \$88m. The USDA attributes the

bleak overall export outlook to increased production in two of the largest US markets: China, which is reporting record grain output, and the Soviet Union. where production is at near record levels, though there are

lower prices and volume for maize and wheat in 1991, the value of US grain and feed exports in New York and lead exports is likely to decline by \$3.4bn, the USDA said. Oilseed exports are expected to slide as - from \$6.2bn to \$5.6bn.

However, USDA analysts are expecting strong sales of cotton. Prices are tied with the 1980 record and world stocks are so low that most importers, particularly China, are turning to the US for supplies. Dairy sales are also likely to

surge, but most will be food aid provided by the US government. Prices are so low that producers have been turning over their nonfat dried milk to the government under the US price support scheme.
US farm imports are expected to increase their slow

steady climb, which have gone from \$21hn in 1985-86 to \$22.5bn in 1990-91. The overall US farm trade surplus is dne to fall from \$17.6bn last year to \$14.5bn Mr Edward Madigan, the administration's appointee as

US Agriculture Secretary assured the Senate Agriculture assured the Senate Agriculture Committee yesterday in his record levels, though there are delivery problems.

The sales picture has depressed prices. With both confirmation hearing that he would be a strong advocate for depressed prices. With both confirmation hearing that he would be a strong advocate for decade hut Western Atlas is

COMMODITIES AND AGRICULTURE Seeking oil among the mangroves

William Keeling watches a high-tech survey in the Niger Delta

hreaking new ground in its use in the difficult terrain of the

mangrove swamps.
Oil-exploration used to be a

matter of intuition and luck. In

the early 1930s a controlled

underground explosion would be monitored by a single sels-mic receiver. It is the anoma-

lies in the signal which indi-cate the make-up of the earth's structure and by the 1960s the number of receivers per deto-

nation numbered twenty-four.

With the latest 3-D technology, four rows of 120 receivers each are used. The system

allows experts to analyse the geo-physical sub-structure in

intricate detail and to pinpoint

potential pockets of oil with

increasing accuracy.

A huge advance in electronic

circultry has made possible the increase in the number of

receivers from which the data is collected. The source of the signal is a 2 kg lump of dyna-

mite exploded 51 metres into the ground. The subsequent signal is picked up by the receivers and transmitted via

electronic cable or optical fibre

to a nearby exploration barge where it is recorded on mag-

HE MOTOR hoat hugged the ox-bow curves of the river, its wake scuttling towards the shoreline. The young man at the wheel of the boat, impassive behind a heavy pair of reflective sun-glasses, swung the craft into an adjoining tributary, in the 50-minute journey he has navigated through a maze of waterways, all of which to the casual observer appear identical

appear identical.

As Humphrey Bogart put it
to Katherine Hepburn in the
classic film, the African Queen,
"all the channels we've lost, all
the twisting and turning we've
done: we may come out back
where we started, if we come
out at all." If M. Record had out at all". If Mr Bogurt had borrowed a Nigerian boatman from the oll-exploration group Western Atlas International, he could have saved himself an awful lot of trouble.

In the Niger delta, the swomps are formed by man-grove trees and the river's winding tributaries stretch for thousands of square kilometres. But never once is there a shadow of doubt that the boatsman knows his way. Western Atlas international is a US based company sub-contracted by the Shell Devel-opment Petroleum Corporation

netic tape. The information on the tape then goes through many months of processing by comof Nigeria to conduct three-dimensional seismic surputer. The end result is a three-dimensional databank of the terrain to a depth of 4,500 metres, which allows exploration analysis to study any section they choose from what-

over angle they desire.

The practicalities of the 3-D survey in a mangrove swamp belie the neatness of the the ory. As the motor boat nudged gently into the muddy bank, a rancid stench of rotting vegeta-

tion wafted over its occupants.
Mr Segun Ogumwumi, the
exploration specialist of the
team, stepped from the boat and sank up to his knees in slime. One nasty squelch later and Mr Ogumwumi had sunk to his waist. He grasped a man-grove branch and, with consid-erable effort, hauled himself on to not very dry land.

The swamp terrain, with the smell and consistency of crude

excrement, drives home just how valuable the crude oil beneath it is to the human world. A short walk from the boast was a two-metre wide path, slashed through the interweaving mangrove, known as a seismic line. It is along these lines that holes for laying the dynamite ara drilled and receivers are positioned. The purpose of the team was to detonate a charge. Having connected two wires to a detonator hox, the men waved red rags above their heads, shouting, "away, away, away!" A dull boom resounded, the ground quivered like jelly and a 30 ft foot spout of water rose through the air.

Simultaneously, along 24 km of live cables the receivers waiting exploration barge.

At Shell's regional headquar-ters in Port Harcourt, the work continues. Shell is investing \$10m in new processing facili-ties over the next three years. A new computer has recently been installed to "crunch numbers", as one technician explained. It is the size and shape of a chest-freezer and, with its 16 gigabyte capacity, is

its predecessor.
The data it produces is coaxed and nurtured by the geology department of Shell's operations into images of the terrain that shatter any llin-sion that might be held that oil-fields, at least in Nigeria, are underground lakes. Instead, a Nigerian oil-field is a mass of porous rock in which oil settles behind faults and under non-porous layers.

It is over these pictures that the analysis get excited, pointing to reddish hlobs on the

computer screen and running fingers along possible faults. The 3-D technology not only increases the likelihood of finding oil, it yields substantial savings in development costs.

As Mr John Fowler, head of production in the geology department, explained, whereas previously it might have taken 50 wells to know what the structure of a field was like, now we can do it before putting a well in. Save one had well and you've paid for your survey costs".



The blast team prepares for the shot-firing that will he monitored by 480 seismic receivers

far greater analysis of a field's probable reserves. Although the survey may conclude that a field is smaller than anticipated, Shell officials report that the data usually reveals pockets of oil which might oth-erwise have gone undiscov-ered. It also allows wells to be

positioned far more accurately. Following a 3-D seismic survey at its Nembe field, Shell found millions of barrels of oil in res ervoirs that had previously, drawn dry. The men in the mangrove swamps, living for weeks in muddy isolation, had,

Tin producers begin meeting

LEADING TIN producing countries yesterday began a four-day meeting on new measures to reverse the global tin stock build-up and arrest sliding prices, reports Renters from Kuala Lumpur.

Officials from the sevenmember Association of Tin Producing Countries said they would also review efforts to limit exports to underpin sagging tin prices.
Tha ATPC's exacutive

committee met hriefly before adjourning for a sub-committee meeting to review tin export and stock statistics, a delegate said. The key issue of export control review is expected, to come under discussion today. The ATPC's members

ANTIMONY: European free market 99.6 per cent, \$ per tonne, in warehouse, 1,715-1,770 BISMUTH: European free market, min. 99.99 per cent, \$ per lb, tonné lots in warehouse,

week's in brackets). . .

Prices from Metal Bulletin dast (2.20-2.40).

per lb, in warehouse, 200-230 house, 2.50-260 (same).

- 825 to 324,825 + 5,075 to 907,850 + 300 to 73,900 + 96 to 6,282 - 550 to 56,450 - 70 to 20,165 Australia, Bolivia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand

per cent of world tin output. Nigeria and Zaire did not attend tha meeting. Officials from Brazil, the world's largest producer, attended as observers but China, another non-member, did not send any

and Zaire - accounts for 60

Delegates said the meeting would assess the ATPC's latest

export cnthack drive and review the performance of its previous cutback measures. The ATPC agreed in October to cut export quotas by 6 per cent in 1991 to 95,849 tonnes from 101,967 in 1990 to help

trim stocks and buoy prices. A Malaysian delegate said that the ATPC's export limits were not sufficiently stringent to reverse the continuing build-up in stocks, currently estimated at more than 45,000 tonnes, and to arrest falling "Tha closure of many tin

mines in Malaysia and other ATPC countries has cut down delegate said. "But the market has not been moving upward."

MINOR METALS PRICES

SELENIUM: Ruropean free COBALT: European free market, min 99.5 per cent, \$ per market, 99.5 per cent, \$ per lb, in warehouse, 13.50-14.10 (13.90lb, in warehouse, 480-5.40. TUNGSTEN ORE: European free market, standard min. 65 MERCURY: European free per cent, \$ per tonne unit (10 kg) WO₃, cif, 45-51 (same).

VANADIUM: European free

9.70 (same).

market, min. 98 per cent, \$ a lb V₂O₃, cif. 245-2.55 (2.55-2.70). URANIUM: Nuaxco

exchange value, \$ per Ib, U3Os.

COCOA - London POX

Close Previous High/Low

135-150 (same). MOLYBDENUM: European free market, drummed molybdic oxide, \$ per lb Mo, in ware-

market, min. 99.99 per cent, \$ per 76 lb flask, in warehouse,

Australian metals group in cost-cutting excercise

By Kevin Brown in Sydnay

MOUNT ISA Mines, the Australian base metals producer, said yesterday it had won union agreement for plans to cut operating costs at its Mount Isa and Hilton mines in Queensland by A\$100m a year,
MIM said the cost-cutting
programme would be aimed at
increasing productivity
through more flexible working
practices. However, several hundred of the mines' 5,000 workers are expected to lose

their jobs. "Everyone recognises that major changes are essential to maintain the international competitiveness of the Mount Isa operation," said Mr Barry the Mount Isa/Hilton complex.

"The workforce will undonhtedly be reduced, initially hy non-replacement of people who leave and retire, but the extent of the reduction will depend on the success of all the messnres implemented," Mr Sullivan said.

2/tonne

MIM's joint consultative committee, which includes union and other workforce representatives, said it accepted gold mine near Darwin later which who ventured into coal that "major structural this year when current open changes" were necessary for pit reserves are exhausted.

| Which who ventured into coal in a hig way during the early pit reserves are exhausted.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Copper, Grade A (E per tonne)

Gash 1544-6 3 months 1576-7

Lead (C per tonne)

Cash 315-6 3 months 325.5-9.0

Nickel (\$ per torme)

Cash 1285-7 3 months 1290.5-1.0

WORLD COMMODITIES PRICES

Close Previous

1582-4

the long term survival of the Mount Isa complex. The announcement follows a 84 per cent fall in MIM's interim net profit to A\$67.5m for the six months to December. Analysts are forecasting a similar fall in profits for the full year. The company said its earnings were under pressure because of a sharp decline in base metal prices, the rela-tively high value of the Australian dollar and increasing international competition from efficient new mines such as the

MIM is spending about A\$500m at Monnt Isa/Hilton over the three years to 1992 to increase the efficiency of concentrating and smelting equipment. The complex produces about 11m tonnes of zinc, copper, lead and silver ore per

Escondida copper mine in

MIM recently announced 150 redundancies at its loss-making Collinsville coal mine in Queensland's Bowen Basin coal field, and plans to suspend operations at the Tom's Gully

315/315 329/326

Queensland coal's cyclone havoc

around 33m tonnes, of mostly coking coal its shipmants dur-

ing January and February this

year fell from more than 5.9m tonnes to just over 5m tonnes.

While heavy rain early in the year is normal in what is locally referred to as the Big

Wet, this year's downpour was a surprise. Since Christmas the

region has recorded about 3

metres (120 inches), which has flooded pits and caused the col-

lapse of stockpiles at ports and mines as well as disrupting

transport following several

railway slippages.
At BHP Utah's Goonyella

mine more rain fell in the first

three days of February than the highest previously recorded for the whole month.

The downpour has raised the water table thus frustrating

dewatering of the open cast

Accurate statistics are not

yet available but BHP's latest

production report givas an

indication. The company's

share of output from the seven

By John van Os in Sydney

The 3-D seismic surveys offer

THE AFTERMATH of the unfortunately named cyclone Joy has created havoc with coal production and shipments from Queensland's northern ports. In February these were down to 42m tonnes, compared with nearly 5.3m tonnes in the

same month last year.
With annual exports of around 60m tonnes Queensland accounts for well over 15 per cent of the world's sea-borne trade in coal and under normal circumstances tha drop in Queensland exports would have affected prices. However, because of the current glut in both steam coal and coking coal stocks, these have drifted down rather than up and it is feared that the tonnages lost during Fehruary will not he made up at a later date.

This could have a severe impact on the profitability of the Queensland producers who recently accepted a US\$1 a tonne price drop from Japa-nese customers for long term contracts for the 12 months

beginning April 1. The combination of lower prices and reduced output is a savage blow to MIM Holdings, which who ventured into coal

(Prices supplied by Amaigamated Metal Trading)

AM Official Kerb close Open Interest

1576-7

1540-1 1571-2

1278-9 1286-7

Total daily turnover 12,298 loss

Total daily turnover 23,774 lots

Total daily temover 2.283 total

52,627 1009

96,065 lots

13,293 lots

profit on its massive invest- by BHP-Utah Coal was just over 1m tonnes during Janu The other major loser is the BHP suhsidiary, BHP-Utah Coal, Australia's largest pro-ducer with annual exports of ary, compared with more than. 1.6m tonnes in January last

This 40 per cent decrease, industry officials say, is typical of most open cast mines in North Queensland, and it is' expected that February's drop. in production will be just as.

The executive director of the Queensland Chamber of Mines, Mr Michael Pinnock, said it would not be known until much later in the year if the lost output could be made up. "In the meantime the loss of production is seriously affecting the cash flow of the coalimining companies," he said.

Shipments have been hit

hard due to collapsed stockpiles, rough seas and coal! being too wet to load. BHP's Hay Point loader near Mackay has been hit the hardest. Most shipments from this terminal in the last couple of months have been from direct transfers from trains rather than stock-piles. This suggests that customers may have accepted coal that was not up to specification as conditions at the port would have prevented blending of dif-

MARKET REPORT

Nickal prices tell sharply yesterday on the LME as. tonnes, tha highest lavel since July last year. Dealers said tha likelihood of further increases In atocks is expected to lead to support lavels being tested in the ahort-term. Platinum closed below \$400 a troy ounce on the London selling in the Far East spilled over Into Europe. In Naw York tha April platinum futures contract was also below \$400 at midday. Dealers a deadlock on precious metals and assemed to be dictating tha action. A close below \$400 on

London Markets

	. SPOT MARKETS		·
and the state of t	Crude oil (per barrel FOB)		+ 01 -
. '' #1'. ''	Dubel Brent Blend (dated) Brent Blend (April) W.T.L (1 pm est)	\$15.35-5.55t \$20.10-0.20 \$19.00-9.70 \$20.56-0.60t	-0.05 +0.05
r	Oil products (NWE prompt delivery per t	onne CIF)	+ or -
	Premium Gasoline Gas Oil Heary Fuel Oil Nepthe Patroleum Argus Estimales	\$253-258 \$208-212 \$72-74 \$217-220	+10+4
s''	Criner		+ or -
	Gotti (per troy oz) 4 Silver (per troy oz) 4 Platoum (per troy oz) Paladium (per troy oz)	\$385.30 384,50c \$388 \$83,35	-0.65 -0.50 -7 -1.95
	Aluminium (free mariest) Copper (US Producor) Lead (US Producor) Nickel (free market) Tio (Kueta Lumpur mariest) Tin (New York) Zin (US Prima Western)	\$1545 117c 50c 395c 14.92c 257c 62c	+ 10 -0,05 -3
	Came (live weight)† Simp (dead weight)† Pigs (live weight)†	107.85p 153.14p 83.25p	+1.30° +2.74° -0.06°
	London daily sugar (raw) London daily sugar (white) Tate and Lyle export price	\$235w \$315.0w \$230	+3 +25
31 32	Burley (English feed) Maize (US No. 3 yellow) Wheat (US Dark Morthern)	£123.0 £172 £33	+1.5
- : i.	Rubber (Apr) ♥ Rubber (May) ♥ Rubber (KL RSS No. 1 Apr)	48.50p 49.00p 228.5m	-0.25 -0.25
	Coconut oli (Prilippines) A. Reim Oli (Mateysian) B. Gopra (Philippines) B. Soyabeans (US) Cotton "A" index Voolupe (548 Super)	\$370q \$365x \$220 £145 85.45c \$300	-0.55
	a tonne unless otherwise s-centurib, r-ringgitrikg, q-Ai	stated, p-pe privay, t-Apr.	nce/kg. w-Mar/
•	Apr z-Jan/Feb. x-Apr/Jun.	Mest Can	mission
HM.	everage fatatock prices.	rical SCIF Ro	perdam.

liquidation. Freight futures on London Fox rose from the opening as both singla voyaga and tima in the physical market, dealers to continua at least until the COLL as t

-	R - Lond		(\$ per tonn
Rew	Close	Previous	High/Low
May.	-209,40	206.60	209.40 203.60
Aug .	206.60	203,60	205.00 200.40
Oct	201.60	200,20	201.60 197.60
Dec	200.20		200.00
Mar	195.20	197,20	199,00 101.00
Mary	197,50	198.20	200.00 192.00
White	Close	Previous	High/Low
May	307.0	307,0	307,0 304.5
AUG	304.5	203.0	304.5 302.5
Oct	278,0	276.0	277.5 267.0
Dec	270.0	278.0	262.0
Mar	275.0	273.0	275.0 263.5
Turnov White	er; Rew 1 1882 (602) White (FI		lots of 50 tonnes. ce): May 1606, Ad
Turnov White Parls- 1805, 6	er; Raw 1 1882 (602) White (FI Oct 1471.	Fe per tone	
Turnov White Paris- 1805, 6	er; Rew 1 1882 (602) White (FI	Fi per tone	ne): May 1608, A
Turnov White Paris- 1606, (CRUD)	er; Raw 1 1882 (602) White (Fi Det 1471. E OEL - 3 Late	Pst Previo	3/berr
Turnov White Paris- 1806, (CRUD)	er: Rew 1 1862 (602) White (Fi Det 1471. E OSL - 3 Late	Pilit Previo	5/berr 19.75 19.16 18.36 18.55
Turnov White Paris- 1605, (CMUD) Apr May	er; Raw 1 1882 (602) White (Fi Det 1471. E OSL - 1 Late 19.6 18.9	Pil per tone Pil Pil Previo 5 19.63 5 16.77	S/berr 19,75 19,18
Turnov White Paris- 1605, (CMUD) Apr May Jun	Per; Raw 1 1882 (902) White (Fl Det 1471. E Oct 3 Late 19.8 18.9 18.3	Pilit Previo 5 19.63 16.77 1 18.18	5/berr 19.75 19.16 18.36 18.55
Turnov White Paris- 1805, (CMUDI Apr May Jun Jul	er; Raw 1 1882 (902) White (FI Det 1471. E OEL - 3 Late 19.8 18.3 18.0	Piz per tone Piz Previo 5 19.63 5 16.77 1 18.19 6 17.60	**************************************
Turnov White Paris- 1605, (CMUD) Apr May Jun	Per: Rarw 1 1882 (902) White (FI Det 1471. E OSL - 3 Late 19.8 18.9 18.3 18.0 18.1	Pet Previo 5 19.53 16.77 1 18.19 6 17.96 17.96	19): May 1608, An S/berr UB - Hight-Low 19,75 19,16 18,96 16,85 18,35 17,80 19,08 17,87
Turnov White Paris- 1805, (CRUD) Apr May Jun Jul Sep IPE inc	1982 (902) White (FI Oct 1471. E OSL - 3 Late 19.6 18.9 18.3 18.0 18.1 18.3	Put per tone Put Previo 5 19 63 5 16.77 1 18.19 6 17.80 8 17.96 1 18.49	19): May 1608, An S/berr UB - Hight-Low 19,75 19,16 18,96 16,85 18,35 17,80 19,08 17,87
Turnov White Paris- 1805, (CHUD) Apr May Jun Jun Jun Turnov Turnov	1982 (902) White (F) Out 1471. E OHL - 3 Late 19.8 18.9 18.3 18.0 18.1 19.5	Per per tone Per tot Previo 5 19.83 16.77 1 18.19 6 17.90 5 17.96 1 18.49	19): May 1608, An S/berr UB - Hight-Low 19,75 19,16 18,96 16,85 18,35 17,80 19,08 17,87
Turnov White Paris- 1805, (CHUD) Apr May Jun Jun Jun Jun Turnov Turnov	1982 (902) White (FI Oct 1471. E OSL - 3 Late 19.6 18.9 18.3 18.0 18.1 18.3	Per per tone Per tot Previo 5 19.83 16.77 1 18.19 6 17.90 5 17.96 1 18.49	19): May 1808, An S/berr US : HSgN/Low 19,75 19,16 18,96 18,35 18,35 17,80 19,08 17,87 18,18

Turne G AN S485, BWC COTTON Liverpool-Spot and shipment sales amounted to 176 tornes for the week ending 1 March, against 254 tonnes in the previous week. Trading was quiet with interest being shown mainty in West African, American

The state of the s

Nymax would lead to further

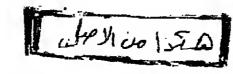
ekend, Monday's report that key US Gulf to Japan grain		5 850.58		.64) 10 day
had been fixed at \$28.50	COTT	E - Los	don POX	
npared with \$26 last week was		Close	Previous	Hightow
firmed. London cocoa prices	Mer	622 548	522 544	522 518 547 540
sed just below tha day's highs	Jul	561	562	564 658
the market continued on its	Sep	580	680	580 \$75
vard path and further gains	Nov	584	580 615	582 609 808
k possible if key origins remain	Jan	810 625	910	626
the sidalines, dealars asid. Compiled from Reulers	Tumovi ICO Inc	or:4842 (3 Sector pr		5 tornes onts per po
AR - London POX (\$ per torme)	71.51 (7 POTAT	(1,74) (925 – 1	endon PO	K
Close Previous High/Low		Close	Previous	High/Low
209.40 209.60 209.40 203.60 205.60 203.60 208.60 200.40 201.60 200.20 201.60 197.60	Apr	131.0 157.5	126.0 153.0	151.0 128.5 158.0 150.0
201.60 200.20 201.60 197.40 200.20 200.00			(6) lots of 4	
· 195.20 197.20 199.00 101.00		<u> </u>		
197,80 198.20 200.00 192.00	SOYAL		Lendon FO	
Close Previous High/Low		Close	Previous	High/Low
307.0 307.0 307.0 304.5	Jun	113.00	114.00	113.00 112
304.5 303.0 304.5 302.5 278.0 276.0 277.5 267.0	Aug	118.00 118.00	116.50	115.60 115 116.00
270.0 270.0 262.0			plots of 20	
275.0 273.0 275.0 269.5				
over: Rew 1926 (1825) lots of 50 tonnes.	PREDICT		edos POX	\$10/Inc
1882 (802) - White (FFs per tonne): May 1808, Aug		Close	Pravious	High/Low
Oct 1471.	Mar	1680	1647	1680 1855
	Apr Jul	1497 1177	1470 1165	1496 1486 1170 1175
DE OIL - IPE S/berrel	Oct	1270	1265	1270
Latest Previous High/Low	BFI	1726	1714	
19.85 19.83 19.75 19.18	Tumov	P 256 (18	(0)	
18.95 16.77 18.96 16.65 16.31 18.16 16.35 17.80	QILATRE	t - Lon	don POX	
18 08 17.80 19.08 17.87	Wheet	Close	Previous	High/Low
18.18 17.96 18.18	Mer	129.00	128.85	129.00 128
ndex 19.51 16.49	May	131.45	151.50	131,50 130
OVER 14080 (23819)	Jun	133,40	133.40	133.00 132
OSL - SPE Shonne	Sep	100.50	110.30 113.40	100.50 112.75 112
Latest Previous High/Low	Jan	115.40	117.30	116.60
100 77 400 00	Mar	119.40		118.70
190.75 189.00 190.75 188.00 175.60 175.60 177.50 172.60	Bartey	Close	Previous	High/Low
168.25 168.00 169.00 166.50			117.50	
164,00 165 00 165,25 163,50	May	117.85	121.40	117.85 117.
166.00 166.50 167.00 165.50				
169.00 188.50 189.00 167.00 170.50 170.00 170.50 170.25			485 (893), 100 tannes.	Bartey 62 (2
172.00 171.00 172.00		Leader		ash Settleme
over 7567 (5058) tota of 100 tonnes		Close	Previous	High/Low
	May	111.5	111.5	111.0
and ! Dundee BTC \$640, BWC \$550, STD	Jul	110.0	109.5	100.5
IS HWD \$500; C and Antwerp BTC \$820.	AUO	110.0		109 0
VC \$520, BTD \$480, BWD \$480.	Oct	109.5		109.0

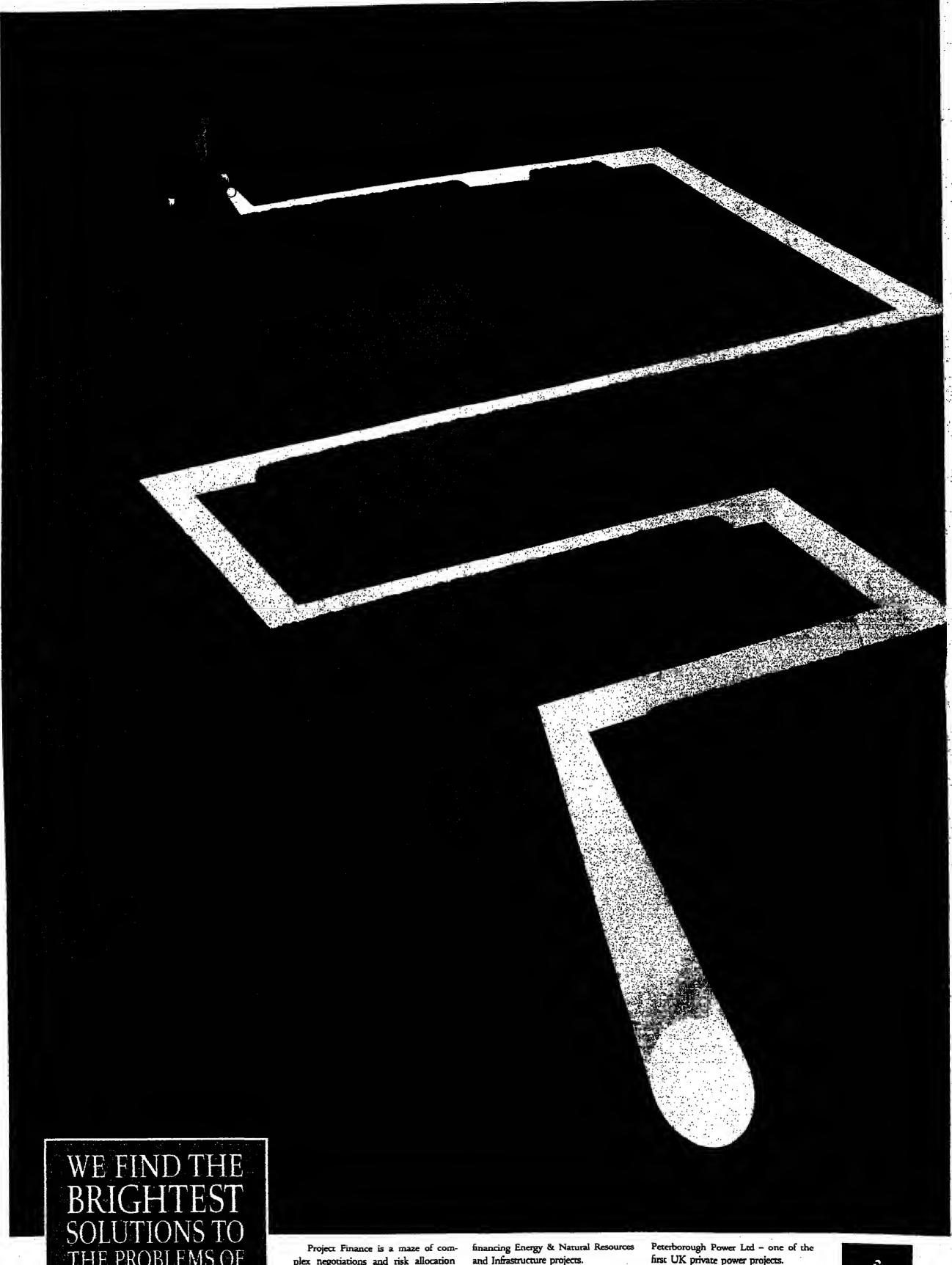
	Mar	8725 650	609	623 608 656 640	
	-Just	650	668	684 670	
	Sep	701 729	669 722	705 694 734 722	
	Mar	754	748	780 750	
	May	774	765	of 10 torance	_
	ICCO I	ndicalor 1	orices (Si	Offis per tonne). De 12.64) 10 day evers	lity
	for May	or Mar 4 5 850.58	850.00 (B (853.73)	(2.64) 10 day evers	94
	COTT		don POX	E/ton	ne
		Close	Previou		_
	Mer	622	522	522 518	
	Mary	548 561	544 552	547 540 564 658	
	Sep	580	680	580 \$75	
1	Nov Jan	584 810	580 615	582 609 608	
	Mar	625	_	626	
	ICO In	er:4842 (3 dicetor or	154) lots toss (US	coms per pound)	for
-	Mar 4:	Como, da	By 71.51	72.11). 15 day avers	94
<u> </u>	71.51 (1025 - L	endon F	10/12 XC	IN B
		Close	Previou	a High/Low	_
	Apr	131.0	126.Q	151.0 128.5	_
	May	157.5	153.0	158.0 150.0	_
	_			40 toruses.	_
	SOYAL		Landon F		(He
-	<u> </u>	Close	Previou 114.00	113.00 112.50	_
	Aug	113.00 115.00	116.50	115.60 115.00	
	Oct	118.00		116,00	_
	_	or 130 (45			=
	FREIG	HT - Los			MIT!
		Close	Praviou	s High/Low	_
•			1947	APOS SOTA	
	Mar	1680 1497	1847 1470	1680 1855 1496 1486	_
1	Apr Jul	1497 1177	1470 1165	1680 1855 1496 1485 1170 1175 1270	
	Apr	1497	1470	1170 1175	_
	Apr Jul Oct BFI Turnov	1497 1177 1270 1726 er 256 (18	1470 1165 1265 1714	1170 1178	_
	Apr Jul Oct BFI	1497 1177 1270 1726 er 256 (18	1470 1165 1265 1714	1170 1175 1270	
	Apr Jul Oct BFI Tumov GRAIN	1497 1177 1270 1726 er 256 (18 & - Lone Close	1470 1165 1265 1714 (3) Son POX	1170 1175 1270 £/ton	
	Apr Jul Oct BFI Turnov GRAM Wheet Mer	1497 1177 1270 1726 er 256 (18 E - Lone Close	1470 1165 1265 1714 (3) Son POX Previou	1170 1175 1270 £/ton	-
	Apr Jul Oct BFI Tumov GRAIN	1497 11777 1270 1728 or 256 (18 Close 129.00 131.45 133.40	1470 1165 1265 1714 (3) Son POX Previou 126.95 151.50 133.40	1170 1175 1270 £/lon \$ High/Low 128.00 128.65 131.50 130.70 133.00 132.80	
	Apr Jul Oct BFI Turnov GRAIN Wheet Mary Jun Sep	1497 1177 1270 1726 er 256 (18 — Lose Close 129.00 131.45 133.40 100.50	1470 1165 1265 1714 (3) Son POX Previou 128.95 131.50 133.40 110.30	1170 1175 1270 E/ton 3 High/Low 128.00 128.55 131.50 130.70 133.00 132.80 106.50	
	Apr Jul Oct BFI Turnov GRAIN Wheet May Jun Sep Nov Jun	1497 1177 1270 1728 er 256 (18 45 - Lene Close 129.00 131.45 133.40 101.50 112.50 118.40	1470 1165 1265 1714 (3) Son POX Previou 126.95 151.50 133.40	1170 1175 1270 £/lon 128,00 128,65 131,50 130,70 133,00 132,80 104,50 112,75 112,50 118,60	
	Apr Jul Oct BFI Tumov GRATH Wheet Mar May Jun Sep Nov Jan Mar	1497 1177 1270 1726 or 256 (18 Glose 129,09 131,45 133,40 100,50 112,59 118,40 119,40	1470 1165 1265 1714 (3) Son POX Previou 128.85 131.50 133.40 110.30 113.40	1170 1175 1270 £/ton 229.00 129.55 131.50 132.60 109.50 112.50 118.50 118.50 118.70	
	Apr Jul Oct BFI Tumov GRATNI Wheet May Jun Sep Nov Jan Mar Bartey	1497 11270 1726 er 256 (18 6r - Lone Close 129,00 131,45 133,40 101,55 112,50 118,40 119,40 Close	1470 1105 1205 1714 (3) Son POX Previou 120.95 131.50 133.40 110.30 117.30	1170 1175 1270 £/lon 229.00 128.55 131.50 130.70 133.00 132.80 108.50 112.50 118.70 High/Low	
	Apri Juli Oct BFI Turnov GRADN Wheet Mar May Jun Sep Nov Jan Mar Bartey	1497 1177 1270 1726 or 256 (18 Glose 129,09 131,45 133,40 100,50 112,59 118,40 119,40	1470 1165 1265 1714 (3) Son POX Previou 128.85 131.50 133.40 110.30 113.40	1170 1175 1270 E/ton 5 High/Low 129.00 128.55 131.50 130.70 133.00 132.60 106.50 112.75 112.50 118.70 117.85 117.10	
	Apr Juf Oct BFI Turnov GRAIN Wheet May Jun Sep Nov Jun Mar Burley Mar Mar	1497 1177 1270 1726 er 296 (16 16 - Lone Close 129,00 131,45 106,50 112,50 118,40 119,40 Close 117,85 121,50	1470 1165 1285 1714 (3) Som POX Previou 120.85 131.50 110.30 113.40 117.50 Previou 117.50	E/ton 5 High/Low 1270 E/ton 128.55 131.50 132.60 104.50 112.75 112.50 118.60 118.70 8 High/Low 117.85 117.10 121.50 121.50	
	Apr Jul Oct BFI Tumov GRATN Wheet Mar May Jul Sep Nov Jan Mar Bartey Tumov	1497 1177 1270 1726 er 296 (16 16 - Lone Close 129,00 131,45 106,50 112,50 118,40 119,40 Close 117,85 121,50	1470 1165 1285 1714 S3 Son POX Previou 128.85 131.50 133.40 110.30 117.30 Previou 147.50 121.40	1170 1175 1270 Chord High/Low 128.05 130.70 133.00 132.60 104.60 112.75 112.50 116.70 High/Low 117.65 117.10 121.50 121.00 Bartey 62 (205)	
	Apr Jul Oct BFI Tumov GRATN Wheet Mar May Jul Sep Nov Jan Mar Bartey Tumov	1497 1177 1177 1726 er 296 (18 8 - Lone Close 129.00 151.45 130.40 112.50 115.40 119.40 Close 117.85 121.50	1470 1165 1285 1714 (S) Som POX Previou 128.85 131.50 133.40 110.30 117.30 Previou 117.50 121.40 485 (893) 100 tenna	1170 1175 1270 Chord High/Low 128.05 130.70 133.00 132.60 104.60 112.75 112.50 116.70 High/Low 117.65 117.10 121.50 121.00 Bartey 62 (205)	
	Apr Jul Oct BFI Turnov GRADN Wheet May Jun Nov Jan Mar Bartey Mar Turnov Turnov	1497 1177 1270 1720 1720 1720 1720 1720 129.00 151.45 133.40 109.50 112.50 119.40 119.40 119.40 117.55 121.50 00: Wheeler lots of	1470 1165 1285 1714 (S) Som POX Previou 128.85 131.50 133.40 110.30 117.30 Previou 117.50 121.40 485 (893) 100 tenna	1170 1175 1270 Croon High/Low 128.05 130.70 133.00 132.60 100.50 112.75 112.50 118.60 116.79 High/Low 117.65 117.10 121.50 121.50 121.50 121.50 Bartey 62 (205).	
	Apr Jul Oct BFI Turnov GRADE Wheel May Jun Sep Nov Jan Mar Bartey May Turnov Turnov Turnov PROS -	1497 1177 1270 1770 1270 16 - Loane 229.00 151.45 153.40 110.50 112.50 115.40 119.40 Close 117.65 121.50 121.50 121.50 121.50 121.50 121.50 121.50 121.50	1470 1165 1265 1714 1265 1714 126.85 151.50 133.40 110.30 113.40 117.50 121.60 127.50	1170 1175 1270 £/ton \$ High/Low 128.00 128.55 131.50 130.70 133.00 132.80 106.50 112.75 112.50 118.60 118.70 \$ High/Low 117.65 117.10 121.50 121.00 B Bartey 62 (205). # High/Low 118.00 # High/Low 111.00	
	Apr Jul Oct BFI Turnov GRAZN Wheet Mar May Jun Sop Nov Jan Mar Bartey Mar Turnov Turnov Turnov PIGS Jul	1497 1177 1177 1177 1270 1726 er 256 (18 8 - Lone 259,00 131,45 133,40 100,50 112,50 112,50 112,50 117,85 121,50 0r: Wheel er lots of Lendes 111,5	1470 1165 1285 1714 (3) Sow POX Previou 128.85 131.50 133.40 110.30 117.30 117.30 121.40 485 (893) 100 tenni-	1170 1175 1270 E/ton High/Low 128.00 128.55 131.50 130.70 133.00 132.60 106.50 112.75 112.50 118.70 High/Low 117.85 117.10 121.50 121.00 Barrey 62 (205). High/Low 111.60 High/Low 111.61 High/Low	
	Apr Jul Oct BFI Turnov GRADE Wheel May Jun Sep Nov Jan Mar Bartey May Turnov Turnov Turnov PROS -	1497 1177 1270 1770 1270 16 - Loane 229.00 151.45 153.40 110.50 112.50 115.40 119.40 Close 117.65 121.50 121.50 121.50 121.50 121.50 121.50 121.50 121.50	1470 1165 1265 1714 1265 1714 126.85 151.50 133.40 110.30 113.40 117.50 121.60 127.50	1170 1175 1270 £/ton \$ High/Low 128.00 128.55 131.50 130.70 133.00 132.80 106.50 112.75 112.50 118.60 118.70 \$ High/Low 117.65 117.10 121.50 121.00 B Bartey 62 (205). # High/Low 118.00 # High/Low 111.00	
	Apr Jul Oct BFI Turnov GRAIN Wheet May Jul Bartey Mar Mar Mar Turnov PROB Jul Au Oct	1497 1177 1270 1270 1270 1270 1270 1270 129.00 151.45 133.40 109.50 112.50 119.40 Close 117.65 121.50 0r: Wheeler lots of Leader 116.65 110.00 116.65 117.65 117.65 117.65 117.65 117.65 117.65 117.65 117.65 117.65 117.65 117.65 117.65 117.65 117.65 117.65 117.65	1470 1165 1265 1714 30 Soe POX 128.85 151.50 133.40 110.30 117.30 Previou 117.50 121.40 485 (688 100 tenne POX Previou	1170 1175 1270 Chord High/Low 128.05 130.70 133.00 132.60 106.50 112.75 112.50 116.80 117.85 117.10 121.50 121.00 Bartey 62 (205). Cosh Settlement) pi High/Low 111.8 111.8 100.5 100.5	
	Apr Jul Oct BFI Turnov GRAIN Wheet May Jul Bartey Mar Mar Mar Turnov PROB Jul Au Oct	1497 1177 1270 1270 1270 1270 1270 1270 127	1470 1165 1265 1714 30] Soe POX Previou 128.85 151.50 133.40 110.30 117.40 117.40 117.40 121.40 485 (688 100 tenne Previou 111.6 109.5	1170 1175 1270 Chord High/Low 128.05 130.70 133.00 132.60 106.50 112.75 112.50 116.80 117.85 117.10 121.50 121.00 Bartey 62 (205). Cosh Settlement) pi High/Low 111.8 111.8 100.5 100.5	
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	Aprily Juli Juli Juli Juli Juli Juli Juli Juli	1497 1177 1270 1270 1270 1270 1270 1270 127	1470 1165 1265 1714 1265 1714 1265 15140 128.85 151.50 133.40 110.30 113.40 117.50 121.40 117.50 121.40 117.50 121.40 117.50 121.40 117.50 121.40 117.50 121.40 100.5	1170 1175 1270 £/ton \$ High/Low 128.00 128.55 131.50 130.70 133.00 132.60 108.50 112.75 112.50 118.70 \$ High/Low 117.65 117.16 121.50 121.00 Bartey 62 (205). B. Cash Settlement) pl #High/Low 111.0 100.5 100.0 250 kg	
	Apri Juli Turnov Mar May Jun Mar May Turnov May Juli Aug Oct Turnov May Juli Aug Oct Turnov May May May May May May May May May May	1497 1177 1177 1177 1177 1177 1177 1177	1470 1165 1255 1714 Son POX Previou 126.95 131.50 133.40 133.40 117.30 117.30 117.30 121.40 485 (688 100 tone Previou 111.50 100.5	E/ton 1270 E/ton 1270 E/ton 128.00 128.65 131.50 130.70 133.00 132.80 108.50 112.75 112.50 118.70 High/Low 117.85 117.10 121.50 121.00 Bearley 62 (205). High/Low 111.0 100.5 109.0 250 kg	141 100 60
	Apr Jul Oct BFI Turnov GRAIN Wheet Mar May Jul Bartey Mar May Turnov PPGE Turnov MCDMI	1497 1177 1270 1776 1270 1777 1270 1776 1270 1726 129.00 151.45 158.40 110.50 112.50 115.45 121.50 115.40 115.40 115.40 115.40 115.40 115.40 115.50 1	1470 1165 1265 1714 1265 1714 1265 15140 128.85 151.50 133.40 110.30 113.40 117.50 121.40 117.50 121.40 117.50 121.40 117.50 121.40 117.50 121.40 117.50 121.40 100.5	1170 1175 1270 E/ton High/Low 128.05 128.55 131.58 130.70 133.00 132.60 109.50 112.75 112.50 118.60 117.85 117.10 121.50 121.00 Bartey 62 (205). Bartey 62 (205). High/Low 111.8 109.5 109.0 250 kg	
	Apri Juli Turnov Mar May Jun Mar May Turnov May Juli Aug Oct Turnov May Juli Aug Oct Turnov May May May May May May May May May May	1497 1177 1270 1770 1270 1726 187 1295 188 - Loan Close 129,00 151,45 153,40 108,50 112,50 118,40 119,40 Close 117,85 121,50 121,50 00r; Wheel of load 110,0 100,5 110,0 100,5 110,0 100,5 110,0 100,5 110,0 100,5 110,0 100,5 110,0 100,5 110,0 100,5 110,0	1470 1165 1265 1714 1265 1714 12685 1714 126.85 151.50 133.40 110.30 113.40 117.50 117.50 117.50 100 tonner 17.50 100 tonner 111.6 100.5	E/ton 5 High/Low 129,000 128,55 131,50 130,70 133,00 132,80 102,50 112,75 112,50 118,70 8 High/Low 117,85 117,16 121,50 121,00 18 High/Low 111,8 117,16 121,50 121,00 18 High/Low 111,8 117,16 121,50 121,00 109,0 250 kg	- Tag 100 6030

3 mount o	410-20	9200-1	<u> </u>	DOUGH I
iki (\$ per tor				
Cash 5 5 months 6	645-50 648-50	5560-7 5660-7	9	5680/5640
	High Grade			
	217-9	1220-2		1221/1210
	207-0	1210-3		1215/1200
LINE Closing SPOT: 1.9025	I/S rete:	3 mont		-
3-01: 1.1023		JIRAIL		
LOHDON III	ALLION MAI	REET		
(Prices supp	led by N.M.	Rothech	HIG]	
Dold (fine of	\$ price		aquive	Jent
Close	385.20-365.4			
Opening Morning flx	364.80-365.2		90.530	
Alternoon fix	354.30 364.50	15	90.858	
Day's high	365.20-365			
Day's low	360.00-360			- 1100
Loco Lde Me		8 mon		5.30
1 month 2 months	5.79 5.73	12 mo		5.29
3 months	5.85			
Silver fix	p/fine az	U	S ces o	NUIV
Spol	200.30		82.00	
3 months 6 months	212.15		50.25 14.65	
12 months	223.05	44	38.15	
GOLD COM				
(Prices suppl				
	\$ price		deniv	
Krugerrand Maple leaf	365.00-36 376.00-37	8.DO 1	91 00-	191.50 197.25
New Soverei			16.30 H	
TRADED OF	TIONS			
Coffee	May	Jü	May	Jul
600	50	68	8	8
550	19	36	25	25
600	5	17	₿I	56
Cocce	May	Jul	May	Jul
650	57	55	•	25
700	25	30	27	50
750	10	16	₿1	86
Brent Crude		May	Apr	May

		Total dai	ly turnove	2,149 lots						
847	50-1 75-80	8405-10		3 lots						
		Total d	pily turnov	er 971 lots						
554	15-50 15-7	5645-50	5.65	7 lots						
				4.051 lots						
121	18-9	1000 001	ly luislove	7,001 100						
120	18-10	1209-11	18.9	97 lote						
70										
\$ mx	anths, 1.65	×22	y mer	oths: 1.8360						
New York										
OLD	100 Irov 6	z.: \$/troy c								
_	Ciase	Previous	High/Los	,						
iar -	384.7	367.9	0	0						
ÐΓ	366.3	369.5	367.8	365.5						
Lay	368.0 369.7	371.2 372.9	371.2	363.7						
un Wg	373.0	378.2	374.3	373.8						
ka	375.4	379.6	376.2	376.2						
ep ep	379.9 383.6	383.1 385.8	381.3	373 3 0						
Þr	387.1	390.4	ō	Ö						
ΑП	NUM 50 #	OY OZ, S/tro	אַם עַר							
	Ciosa	Provious	High/Lov	·						
DF.	397.5	406.1	400.2	396,2						
ing ing	401.7 405.7	410.5 414.8	404.0	400.0 405.0						
Į,n	409.3	415 4	410 8	469 5						
×	414 1	423.2	0	<u> </u>						
LVE		by oz, cent								
	Close	Provious	High/Los							
er.	354.1	385.6	388.0	380.0						
pr Ley	386.0 388.5	387.3 390 0	392.5	0 383 0						
u1	398.3	394.9	397.5	389 0						
BP	298.3	400.0	401 0	394.0						
SC C	405.8	407.3 408 9	409 0	402.0						
la.	413.3	415.0	414 0	403.5						
37	416.7	420 4	423 0	420 0						
al .	423 9	425.8	0	0						
GΗ		Previous								
	Close		High/Los							
er pr	111 50	112.05	112.65	111.60 110.60						
By	109.75	109.95	110.40	109.30						
uR.	108.20	109.10	0	0						
u1	108 10	109.50 107.60	108.70	108.00						
ep ep	106.80	105.50	107.30	106.90						
CI	106.35	106.35	0	0						
lov	105 60	105.80	0	0						
(CC	105.20	105 10	105.25	105.00						
FAN	GE JUICE	15,000 lbs	conts/ibs							
	Close	Previous	High/Los							
LST	114 00	114 00	114.00	113,50						
lay	113.25	113 30	114 00	112.60						
ul	113 70	113 75	114.25	113.40						
	114.10	114.55	114.75 113.85	114.00 113.85						
ep lov	113.85									

RUD	E DIL (LIG	(ht) 42,000 l	3 oling 3U	barrel	Ch	icag			
	Latest	Previous	High/Los		OI:	licag	<u> </u>		_
Apr	20.57	20.25	20.67	18.95	SOYA	BEANS 5,0	200 bu min;		ushol
Vay	20.11	19.88	20,30 19,80	18.60 18.30		Close	Previous	High/Low	
Jun Jul	18,74	10.30	19.53	18.13	Mar	595/2	590/2	597/0	588/
ψg	10.30	10.18	16.35	19.00	May Jul	819/2	614/4	608/0 621/4	588/- 512/-
Sep Oct	19,28 10 30	19.14 19.14	19.30	18.95 19.05	BUA	625/0	620/2	626/0	8174
VOV	19.29	19.16	19.40	19.00	Sop	626/0 635/2	621/6 630/2	629/2 636/0	819/3 627/
Dec Jan	19.30	19.18 19.18	19 45 18.30	19.10 19.00	Jan	645/0	640/2	845/4	637/
					Mor	655/4	651/2	655/4	648/
EAT	NG OFL	2,000 US ge	dis, cents/	US galls	SOYA	Cioso	60,000 lbs; c	High/Low	
	Latosi	Previous	High/Lov				Pievious	22.84	22.6
\pr	5770	5013	5800	5525	Mar	22.83 23,13	22.66	23,14	22.90
May Iun	5510 5360	5371 5233	5520 5375	5310 5200	Jul	23.45	23 47	23.47	23.2
lul	5325	5193	5360	5160	Sep	23 52 23.81	23.47	23.58 23.62	23.4
AUO .	5395 5535	5258 5396	5425 5555	5260 5405	Oct	23.65	23.50	23.65	23.4
Sep Det	5030	5493	5640	5540	Jen Jen	23.87	23.70 23.65	23.90 23.70	23.50
VOV	57 15	5588 5683	5715 5830	5650 5700					
Jec Ien	5800 5800	5683	5840	5650	BOYA		4. 100 tons;		
						Close	Previous	High/Low	
0000	A 10 tonn	es;\$/tonne			Mar May	171.0 174.0	168.5 171.2	171.2 174.2	168.0
	Close	Previous	High/Los	w	Jul	177 3	174.7	177.5	174.2
Mar	1128	1097	1125	1105	Aug	179.0 180.6	177.0 178.2	179.1 180.7	176.5 177.8
Мау	1169	1135 1163	1170	1143 1175	Sep	151.9	180.0	182.0	179.0
Jul Sop	1162 1222	1199	1195 1223	1208	Dec	185.2	182.5	185.2	182.3
Doc	1268	1243	1268	1250	Jan	185.3	183.2	0	0
Mar Mar	1307 1337	1283 1313	1320 1325	1291 1325	MAIZE		min; cents/5		
Jul	1362	1338	0	0		Close	Previous	High/Low	
					Mar	246/0 256/4	246/0 256/0	246/6 256/6	244H
COPP	EE "C" 37	,500lbs; co	nts/lbs	_	May Jul	263/6	263/2	264/2	262/
	Close	Previous	High/Los	<u> </u>	Sep	265/0	264/6	265/0 267/4	265/
Маг	81.80	89.85	01.90	89.05	Doc	267/0 274/0	267/0 274/2	274/2	2721
May Jul	93.65 95.70	92.00 94.05	93.90 95.75	91.90 94.00	May	279/0	279/0	279/0	278/
Sop	97.75	96.30	97 75	96.00	-	T = 000 b.	min; cents	and dine	
Dec Mar	100.40 102.65	99.15 102.15	100.25	98.65 O	WHEA	Close		High/Low	
May	104.45	104.00	104.00	104.00			Previous	276/0	268/
النال	106.50	104.50	0	0	Mar	275/4 285/0	271/0 280/8	285/0	279/
				- 115-	Jul	294/6	290/4	295/0	289/
BUGA.		"11" 112.0			Sep	303/0 316/6	297/4 311/0	303/4 317/0	298/ 311/
	Close	Provious	High/Lov		Mer	323/4	321/0	323/4	330/
May ful	9.39 0.00	9.29 8.90	8 42 9.01	9.15 8.78	LIVE	CATTLE 40	0,000 lbs; ce	nts/libs	
Oct	5.86	8.51	8.83	8,69		Close	Provious	High/Low	
dar	8 75	5.65	6 80	8.70	Apr	81 47	80 47	61.60	80.6
Asy Juj	8.75 8 75	8 85 9.00	8.72 Q	8.72 0	Jun	77.87	77.02	77.97	77.1
		2.00	_	_	Aug	75,30	74.72	75.35 78.00	74.8 75.3
	OH CO 800	to Pike			Oct	75.95 76.55	75.25 76.07	76.60	76.1
win	ON 50,000	, cents/lbs	100 100		Fob	76 30	75 82	76.30	78.1
	Close	Previous	High/Lo		Apr	76.80	75.20	76.80	76.4
Mar May	86.43 86.58	87.56 87.75	87.10 87.35	86.40 86.46	LIVE	10GS 30,0	00 lb, cents/	lbs	
Jul	65.18	85.B3	85.75	85. TO		Close	Previous	High/Low	
Oct	71.72	72 46 57 53	72.30 67.45	71.70 67.15	Apr	52.77	51.62	52.95	51.80
Dec Mar	67.10 68.00	67.63 68.35	68.30	68.00	Jun	57.50	56.45	57.75	56.4
May	68.41	68 50	68.50	68,40	لبيل	56.70	55.85	56.80 54.25	55.95 53.45
					Aug Oct	54.00 48.70	53.30 47.92	48.72	48.00
	-				Dec	47.72	47.25	47.07	47.60
HOI					FOO	47.82	47.50 45.70	47.85 45.30	47.50 45.50
REU	TERS (Bai	se: Soptem			Apr	45.90			
	Mar 5			o yr 200	PORK		40,000 lbs; &		
_	1699.2		1652.1	1899.0		Close	Provious	High/Low	63.5
DOW	JONES (Base: Dec.	31 1974 =	100)	Mar	64.87 65.40	<i>83.07</i> 63.55	85.00 65.55	63.75
	Mar 4	Mar 1	month ag	o yr 000	Jul	64.75	63.10	65.10	63.2
Spot	125.89	125.48	122.09	132.50	Aug	62.82	61.05	63 05	61.40 68.60
	ee 130.53		126.08	134.58	Feb	59.10 59.00	58.15 59.00	60.00 0	0
					IMAN.	33.00	- W	-	-





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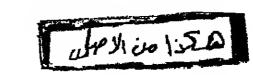
You could find it most enlightening.

ে NatWest Corporate Finance

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NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK PLC REGD OFFICE, 41 LOTHBURY, LONDON EC2P 2BP.



LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE

Equities break through FT-SE 2,400

utional buying, ledby US investment funds, capit the London market unaures yesterday, and equitie gained nearly 38 points on is FT-SE indax, taking it cofortably above the 2,400 mar to close at its highest level ir nea 14 months. Turnver was extremely heavy ad some traders described to session as one of the best ace before the market crash f October 1997

Yesterday's perfmance rep-Yesterday's perimance represented a remarkble turnround of some is Footsie
points from earl-falls which
followed the widy predicted
halving in divide hy Midland
Bank; the disclore that Midland's chairm; will soon
depart provided additional
and unexpected set.

and unexpected pset.
in early trads, the market

	<u> </u>
Dealing	Dates
	Apr 2
; šar 27	Apr 11
Mar 25	Apr 12
Apr 8	Apr 22
	Dealing Mar 11 Mar 27

was nearly eleven Footsie points off as traders took a cool view of the unexciting performances in Tokyo and New York overnight. But US funds showed an appetite for Glaxo, Wellcome and many of tha other international blue chips, and the London market began to rally and then to turn higher. The stock futures mar-ket played a relatively subdued role, although the premium on the Footsie contract expanded later in the day.

By early afternoon, the mar-ket had successfully broken through the Footsie 2,400 mark. The presence of US buy-ers in London was then backed up by a strong opening to the new Wall Street session which had gained 34 Dow points by the time London closed for the

A final burst of strength reading of 2,420.1, the highest close since January 9, 1990 and a gain of 37.2 on the day. The Index now seems poised to challenge its all-time peak of 2,463.7, reached on January 3 last year. Trading volume, as mea-

sured by the Seaq network, increased sharply to 693m shares from the 499.8m of the previous session US demand was hy no means the only factor behind yester-

day's advance in share prices. The sudden upswing in share prices during the morning alarmed some domestic fund managers who hurried to put new cash into equities. In three weeks, managers will be meet-ing their fund trustees for the assessment of fund performances over the first quarter of the year, and no manager wants to be left behind by the market at this stage.

The suddenly renewed rush to buy fell heavily on the London marketmaking firms which were still relatively short of stock and had been expecting share prices to settle downwards in the short term. The squeeze on their positions helped to drive prices shead and also forced marketmakers to borrow stock from the institutions, which remained largely unwilling to sell shares

The practice of stock lending by institutions came under a cloud of legal questions last year but this has now been removed and traders said lending volume was heavy yester

Trading in the non-Footsie listed stocks remained extremely active yesterday. Underlining the institutional appetite for smaller stocks was a highly successful £13.6m placing and open offer of shares hy Polypipe, a building supplies company. Panmure Gor-don, the placing broker, said that the issue was nine times over-subscribed within an hour by institutions which, only a few weeks ago, might have hes-itated to take stock in a small company in what was then a somewhat troubled market sec-

Some other analysts still believed a refinancing was pos-

Cadbury advanced 13 to 364p, with Hoare upgrading its

recommendation to a buy. Cad-

bury reports its final results

today and analysts expect

£275m to £285m, against £244m

■ Other Market statistics, including the FT-Actuaries

share index, Page 23

sible next year.

		INAK	CIAL	11995	: 5 51	OCK	INDIC	E5		
	Mar 8	Mar 4	Mer 1	Feb 25	Feb 27	Year	198 High	0/91 Low	Since Co High	moltation Low
Government Secs	84.74	84.61	84.78	85.09	85.39	77.53	85.66 (19/2/91)	74.18 (30/4/90)	127.4 (9/1/35)	49.1\$ (3/1/75)
Fixed Interest	98.21	93.15	93.22	93.47	93.55	87.41	94.23 (19/2/91)	83.80 (30/4/90)	105.4 (28/11/47)	50.53 (3/1/75)
Ordinary Share	1846.0	1918.1	1918.2	1510.7	1877.8	1745.7	1988,3 (3/1/90)	1510.4 (24/9/90)	2006.6 (5/9/80)	49.4 (26/6/40)
Gold Mines	142.5	143.0	143,0	187.7	134.4	282.8	378,5 (6/2/90)	127.0 (22/2/91)	734.7 (15/2/83)	43.5 (26/10/71)
FT-SE 100 Stere	2420.1	2382.9	2388.9	2380.9	2345.0	2216.0	2483.7 (3/1/90)	1990.2 (25/9/90)	2483.7 (3/1/90)	985.B (23/7/84)
FT-SE Europeck 200	1108.10	1094,58	1068.10	1095.65	1083.76	•	1106,10 (5/3/91)	938.62 (16/1/91)	1106.10 (5/3/91)	938.82 (16/1/91)
Ord. Olv. Yield Earning Yid %(hill) P/E Ratio(Net)(*)	4,95 9.58 12.83	5.03 9.73 12.63	5.04 9.75 12.80	5.06 9.79 12.65	5.14 10.72 11.28	5.02 11.88 10.15	1/7/25, Bold	Plnes 12/9/65	126, Flood Int. 1 1000 €1 10790, ± No 12	-SE 100 31/12
SEAG Bergns 4.45pm Equity Turnover(2m)† Equity Bergeins† Shares Traded (mil)†	38,710	37,518 877,23 38,246 429,3	36,810 1029.39 36,467 470.3	42,389 1812.52 41,891 712.9	31,226 1069.35 31,513 484.9	25,150 732.58 25,977 344.5	GIL		ED AC	
Ordinary Share Index,	Hourly ch	anges 1	Day's High	1947.4	Day's	Low 1909	Barg	Edged ains	88.	5 104.
	124 192			1.3 193	1836			ay avera	ge 103.	s 104.
Open 9 am 10 2379.1 2372.7 237	Am 11 t	Mm 12 p		m 2 p	т (Зр		n texc	ness & C	tra-marke Verseas	umover.
Open 10 am 1096.43	11 am	12 1	m	106,10 pm 102.29	2 pm 1103.42	3 pm 1103.8	late		port and e index 23001	
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Two-way pull n Midand

A HALVETUI year dividend from Middd Bank and the resignation its chief execu-tive surpril even bears of the stock. Miand nevertheless put in a illient performance in heavy ding, supported by the streng of the rest of the

market a other banks.

Analys had mixed assessments one company's performance. r Peter Toeman at UBS Pllips & Drew com-mented the pain on the dividend cupas been counter-balanced by the reduced likelihd of a rights issue." Mr Ti Clarke at Panmure Gordosaid the worst probems ght now be behind the hank

Hower, Mr Robert Law at Lehm Brothers predicted shorerm weakness in the sharerice. Midland is yielding 6.4 p cent, compared with 7.2 per at from NetWest and 6.8 per at from Barclays, both of whi are usually regarded as stroer. For Midland to yield 7.2 r cent, the shares would havto drop to 165p, he said.

A three banks go ex-divider on Monday. Income funds we yesterday switching out of idland into especially Nat-Wt. Midiand fell 15 hefore revering with the market to eoat 187p for a net decline of ju 3. Turnover was a very hoy 38m, easily the highest ste June 1989 when Hanson sd its 5.2 per cent stake. Nat-Vst climbed 21 to 333p and Eclays rose 11 to 442p.

ladbroke unsettled

Investors steered clear of idbroke ahead of final results te tomorrow. Sentiment was so upset by the departure om the company of Mr Keith delman, the strategic plan-ing director and head of

'exas Homecare. Mr Edelman had been tippel n the press as a possible sufessor to Mr Cyril Stein, Laibroke's chairman. His departore was "perhaps a little disappointing", according to Mr Bruce Jones at Smith New Court. Marketmakers said tiey were additionally upset by the timing of the change, just

before the figures.
Ladbroke was 4 off at one
point before eoding at 271p, a
decline of a penny on the day. Mr Jooes pointed out that Ladbroke shares have been particularly strong in recent weeks. Turnover was a busy 5.2m. Mr.

Edelman is going to Carlton Communications, whose shares climbed 15 to 435p.

Airways upset

British Airways fell in busy late dealings on speculation that an announcement was about to be made on the liberabout to be made on the liberalisation of rules allowing foreign airlines to use Heathrow airport. The surge in activity at one stage led to marketmakers offering on the Seaq screens to buy BA shares at a higher price than they were prepared to sell them for.

After the market closed Mr

After the market closed. Mr Malcolm Rifkind, the UK transport minister, said he had accepted the advice of the Civil Aviation Authority that rules preventing international airlines starting new echeduled services into Heathrow should

modest and did not automatically open the way for new airlines to operate at Heathrow. BA closed 8 lower at 165p on

Tarmac was one of only 12 fallers in the FT-SE 100 list a turnover of 3m.

insisted that there was no sug-gistion of altered figures until yesterday, when he moved his 1990 figure back hy £3m to 187m and his 1991 forecast lown by £28m to £172m. "We think management has found its way again, but the stock is still expensive," he said.

dividend cut hurt Standard Chartered, whosa own dividend has been the subject of much speculation. Standard ing to 294p, a penny down on balance. "Standard is likely to mented one analyst.

barrier to clock up yet another new high of 1032p for an advance of 45. Traders blamed a severe shortage of stock, US huying and a small profits upgrade from Goldman Sachs.

1050

1000

1100

However, he also said the effect of the changes would be turnover of 7.1m.

Tarmac downgrade

after securities house Smith New Court cut its profits forecast. The construction com-pany closed 6 down at 268p on

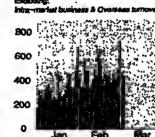
Ramours of downgrading spread through the market on Mciday hut Mr Derek Reed, hallding analyst at Smith,

The furore over Midland's slipped to 289p before recovercnt its dividend now," com-

Glazo burst through the £10

FT-A All-Share Index 1150

Equity Shares Traded Turnover by volume (million)



Goldman is now forecasting £1.215bn instead of £1.2bn for the current year. The squeeze was reflected in the unspecta-

cular turnover of 2.6m.
ICI added 20 at 1070p ahead
of Monday's ex-dividend date. A press report that Pearson was about to sell its 22.2 per cent stake in Dutch publisher Elsevier beiped the shares climh 23 to 749p in modest turnover. After the market closed, Pearson confirmed the sale, which raises £313m and reduces the company's net bor-

rowings of £410m Ms Chris Munro at Hoare Covett said: There were two surprises: the price was a little lower than expected and net debt was slightly higher than expected. But the deal is good news and should add a couple of million pre-tax to profits this year." Pearson said Elsevier had informed it that it did not

had informed it that it did not intend to dispose of its own 8.8 per cent holding in Pearson.
Utilities, especially oil and gas, were described hy Mr Richard Burnard of Laing & Crulckshank as "somewhat friendless", with investors deserting for what they felt were more undervalued stocks were more undervalued stocks. British Gas eased haif a penny to 237½p on a turnover of 8.2m. Shell lost a penny to 468p with 6m shares traded and BP hardened 2½ to 335½p on a volume of 9.2m shares.

The construction sector ran into profit-taking. It has seen some spectacular rises in recent days on hopes for contracts to rehuild Kuwait. George Wimpey declined 9 to 201p - BZW was a seller -and John Laing relinquished 4

to 336p.
Raine Industries, the house and building contractor, announced lower profits and a flat dividend in line with City expectations but saw profit-taking after a rise of nearly 40 per cent since the beginning of the year. The shares closed 4

down at 128p. The market found Persimmon, the housebuilder, attractive after good results on Monday. It rose 18 to 265p. Positive sentiment spilled over into Wilson Bowden, another sec and line bousebuilder, which advanced 22 to 430p.
Tilbury Group climbed 20 to

690p, helped by reports of a joint venture in Spain.
Williams Holdings, the recent bidder for locks and domestic appliances group Yale and Valor, held firm in spite of a large placing by Bar-clays ds Zoete Wedd, a fall in full year profits and a flat dividend. The shares ended up 2 at 278p on a turnover of 2.0m. Buyers still valued British Aerospace cheaply and pushed it up 17 to 641p on a volume of 1.5m shares. The prospect of US orders for Rolls-Royce helped the stock to an 8-point

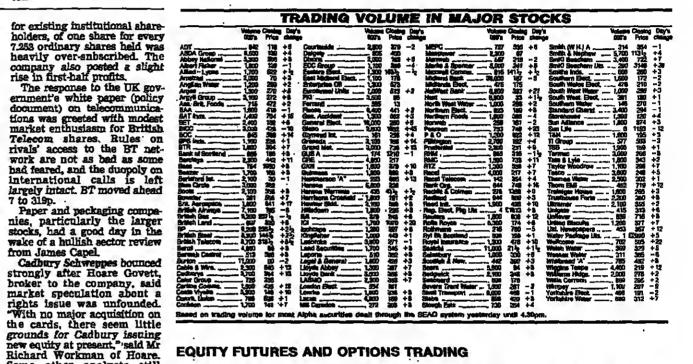
Reports that Mr Jock Mack-enzie may have found a bidder for his family's 21 per cent shareholding in Tace, the maker of pollution control equipment, lifted the stock 9 to

rise. It closed at 174p on a turn-

GKN, the motor components. industrial services and defence group, gained ground. Analysts said results due out today would be unglamorous but the general rush for stock throu out the market meant that the bulls held sway and the shares put on 10 to 379p on a turnover

Concern that securities house UBS Phillips & Drew would cut its estimate for the dividend of BICC, the cable manufacturer, hefore the results due out today poured cold water on the shares, which slipped 10 to 426p. UBS redoced its forecast for BICC's 1991 profits from £160m to £152m after BICC Australia released results below expecta-

The market was so bullish that Polypipe, the south York-shire-hased manufacturer of plastic pipes and fittings, maintained its price of 165p in spite of going ex-dividend at 1.32p and making a 150p a share offer to raise £13.6m. The offer,



EQUITY FUTURES AND OPTIONS TRADING

A SHORTAGE of stock coupled with US investment demand created a powerful squeeze in the UK fatures market yesterday. However, equity futures had little influence over the share market and for once their traditional roles appeared to be reversed.

Indeed, London stock futures had begun the session indicating that the rally of the last seven weeks had run out of steam, At one stage, the March FT-SE contract was

trading 2 to 8 points over the spot index, compared with the 5-point fair value premium calculated by brokers.

However, a strong advance on Wall Street found marketmakers short of stock and forced them into the futures market to cover their posi-The March FT-SE index

closed 40 points up at 2,480, with a 14-point premium to the spot index, against 6 at the

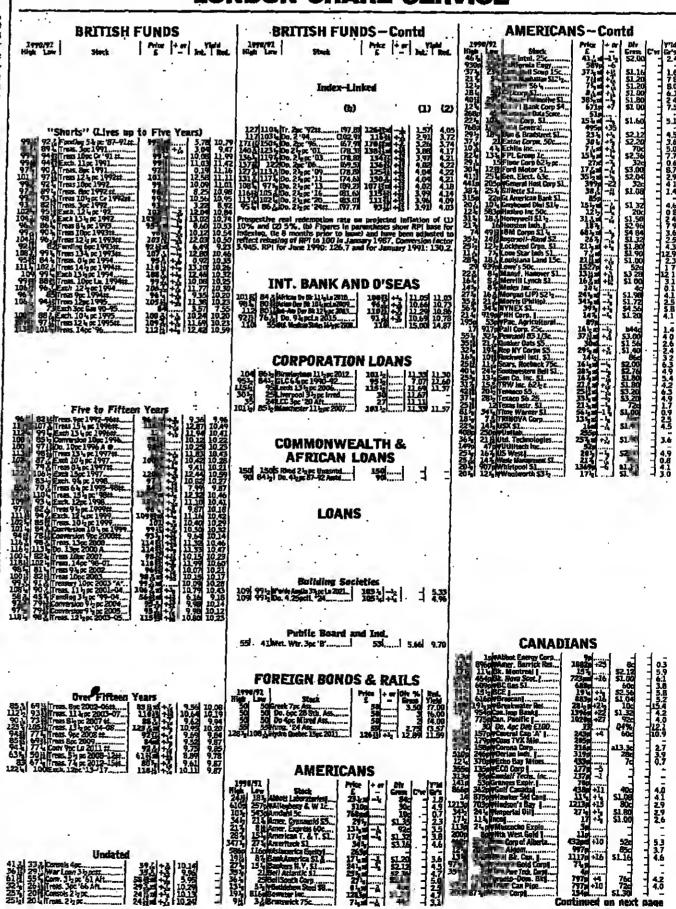
the spot index, against 6 at the previous close. In after-hours

In the traded options market, there were signs of investors attempting to profit from the rise in equities. The FT-SE 100 index options were partic-ularly active, with sellers of April 2.350 puts and sellers of March 2,400 calls hoosting proover. Among the share turnover, Among the share options, James Capel was a strong huyer of Midland Bank March 200 puts following the

full year results.

dealing the March index rose

LONDON SHARE SERVICE



NEW HIGHS (120). BETTER FUNDS (1) AMERICANS (1) GARAZIMAN (1) BARCS (5) BREWERS (2) BUILDINGS (19) CHOMICALS (1) STORES (12) BLECTRICALS (12) ENGRESHING (3) FOODS (4) INOUSTRIALS (21) BET (WILL). Betts, Betterware Cone. Prode. British Acrospies, Do. 73, p Pi., Gritish Vis., Charter Cons., Creighton Naturally, Dalmier-Berg. & Sidney, Seros, Sidley, Silenbught, Smithkline Beechent A. Spring Rams, Tokare, Vinter, Lizakine (2) PAPEDS (4) PNOPERTY (2) BHOOS (2) TEXTILES (1) THUSTS (25), NEW LOWS (1) EXTRICALS (2) BHUSTONS (1) & BUSTONS (2) BHUSTONS (3) EXPERIENCE (3) PROPERTY (2), Plastees, LESSINE (1) PROPERTY (2),

APPOINTMENTS

NEW HIGHS AND LOWS FOR 1990/91

Guinness finance changes



GUINNESS has appointed Mr Philip Yia (pictured) 'as director offmancial centrol. He succeeds for Keith Hamili who becomes finance director of United Datillers, the spirits company of Guinness. Mr Yea returns to Guinness from the # Hydrocarbon Risk Consultants. post of fnance director of the Cope Allnan Packaging Group, prior to which he was directr of busiess development bri United listillers.

ETAI has appointed Mr Keith files as group finance secretary and head of finance Mr Phily Sellers, a director

of Postel Investment Management, and chairman of CSI Group, has been appointed a non-executive director.

AMTAC LABORATORIES has appointed Mr Alan Kirwilliam as director of marketing.

THE HOUSING
CORPORATION has appointed Mr Greg Lomax to the new postiof deputy chief executive (operations). He was chief executive of Church Housing

Ms Mavis Gradwell has been appointed joint managing director of SIMON JERSEY. supplier of uniforms and corporate clothing.

PROVIDENCE CAPITOL Basingstoke, has appointed nanager, European equity nvestment. He joins from the Vational Bank of Kuwait Investment Management

J.H. MINET & CO, has appointed Dr Charles Lee as executive director,

Mr Philip Williams has been appointed a director of the WILLIAMS LEA GROUP. He is managing director of Williams Lea Business Forms, and chairman of Williams Lea Facilities Management.

Mr Gary T. Cowdrill has

principal. He was manager. structured finance, The National Home Loan Group.

Mr Stuart Roberts has been

appointed sales director of MODERN ALARMS. He was a general manager, Wiggins Teape Paper.



Mr Alan Cullens (pictured) has been appointed to the main board of FORBOUYS, the Gallaher chain of CTN shops. He is sales and commercial director at TM Group, also part of Gallaher. He will remain a director of the group, but bas relinquished his post as chairman of ISS and VTS, two TM Group subsidiaries.

■ MORGAN GRENFELL & CO has appointed Mr D.G. Penfold and Mr N.A. Tatmen to the board from April 1. Joining the board of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management

from the same date are: Mr J.C. Armitage, Mr P.W.W. Disney, Mr J.G. Fox, Mr A.C. Frest, Mr LD. Kelson, Mr A.G. Reid, and Mr R.P. Yates.

Eurotunnel posts

Mr Christopher Garnett has been appointed commercial director of EUROTUNNEL. He was European sector director of Sealink UK. Mr Garnett will be responsible for the iaunching and commercial development of the transport system on the cross-Channel market. He takes over from Mr Nicolas Gorodiche who becomes director of European affairs, a new post. Mr Yves-Noël Derenne has been appointed director of human resources. Ha was director of human resources at Amdahl Europe Marketing managers for freight and coach operations have also been appointed - Mr Christian Zhylut and Mr Neil Cooper.

LEHMAN BROTHERS INTERNATIONAL has appointed Mr Richard Furber as executive director, branch sales and product management, European branch network. He was senior executive and head of international equities at Dean

Mr John Greenwood has been appointed a director of COMPASS GROUP. He is managing director of the healthcare division.

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30	LONDON SHARE SERVICE	Latest Share Prices are available on FT Cityline. To obtain your free Share Code Booklet, ring the FT Cityline ho desk on 071-925-2128
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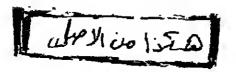
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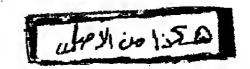
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Dollar above Far East lows

THE DOLLAR was slightly economy before deciding its weaker on the day in London, hut finished above the levels seen in the Far East earlier in the day. It was reported that Bank Negara, the Malaysian central bank, bought dollars for D-Marks, helping to lift the US currency hy squeezing

short positions.

There were no fresh factors. The dollar showed little reaction to a fall of 1.7 per cent in January US factory orders. with December revised down to a fall of 0.5 per cent from an unchanged figure. A January decline of around 1.0 per cent was expected.

The main news of the week is likely to be Friday's US employment data for February. Sentiment suggests that the closing out of short dollar positions will continue in expecta-tion that February's fall in non-farm payrolls will be much lower than the sharp January drop of 232,000.

January's employment news prompted the last easing of the federal Reserve's monetary stance, including a cut in the US discount rate, but unless the February figures are exceptionally weak the market is not looking for a similar reaction this time. The US authorities are expected to see what impact the successful conclusion to the Gulf war has on the

2	IN	NEW	YORK
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- Mar 5	Bank of England Index	Morgan ^e Guaranty Changes %
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OTHER CHRRENCIES

Mar 5	3	5
Argentina		9300,00 - 9350,0
Australia Brazil	2.4655 • 2.4675 430.400 • 430.900	1.2915 - 1.2925
Flaland	7.0330 - 7.0445	3.6870 - 3.6900
Greece	310.90 - 315.85	163 20 - 165.80
Hone Kong	14.8535 - 14.8670 124.20	7.7900 - 7,7920 65.00
Koren(Seb) .	1365.03 - 1387.05	722.10 - 727.90
Kervall		M;A
Limenbourg Malaysia	59.93 - 60.05 5 1955 - 5.2025	31.50 - 31.60 2.7265 - 2.7265
Mexico	5679.75 - 5684.65	2974.00 - 2975.0
K.Zealand _ Santi Ar	7 1305 - 7 1720	1.6710 - 1.6740
Storagore	71305 · 71720 33025 · 13100	3.7490 - 3.7510 1.7315 - 1.7335
S.A. (Om)_	4.9265 - 4.9385	2.58N5 - 2.5980
S.M (Fi) Taingg	5.9765 · 6.0715 51.65 - 51.75	3,1350 - 3,1050
UAE	6.9840 - 7.0245	27.10 · 27.15 3 6720 · 3.6740

next move.

in Tokyo the dollar closed at DM1.5285 yesterday, but rallied to finisb in London at to 111150 In London at DM1.5330 compared with DM1.5365 on Monday. It showed a similar trend against the Japanese yen, falling to Y135.35 from Y135.50 in London, but finishing above the Tokyo close of Y134.90. In London the dollar also declined to KFT5 2225 from FFT5.2300 and

for the total also technical to FFr5.2225 from FFr5.2300 and to SFr1.3350 from SFr1.3360. Its index fell to 61.9 from 62.1.

Sterling was slightly firmer overall, also lacking market moving news. There are no important UK statistics this week, but dealers are waiting for tomorrow's by-election in the Ribble Valley to provide an indication of the Government's standing with the electorate. This may provide a pointer towards the timing of the next UK general election.

The pound gained 1/2 cent to \$1.9020. It was unchanged at DM2.9150, but rose to FFr9.9325 from FFT9.9225; to SFT2.5400 from SFr2.5375; and to Y257.50 from Y257.00. Sterling's index climbed 0.1 to 93.8.

Within the European Mons tary System the pound remained slightly head of the weakest placed French franc. Wholesale interest rastes had a slightly softer tone on Madrid yesterday, but Monday's failure of the Bank of Spain to ease its credit policy pushed the peseta up to its limit against the franc in the EMS exchange rate mechanism.

There was no sign of inter-vention by the Bank of France however. The French euthorities have indicated that as long as franc is trading comfortably against the D-Mark they regard strains within the ERM as a problem for Madrid to solve.

	Ecu Central Rates	Currency Amounts Against Ecu Mar 5	% Change from Central Rate	% Spread vs Westest Currency	Divergent Indicator
mish Peseta	153.631 42.4032 1538.24 2.05586 2.31645 0.767417 7.84193 0.696904 6.89509	127.663 42.2260 1532.14 2.04983 2.31048 0.769485 7.87879 0.703650 6.96286	4.12 -0.42 -0.29 -0.27 0.47 0.47 0.47	6.01 1.70 1.68 1.57 1.53 1.00 0.80 0.80	R82222225-14-17-41

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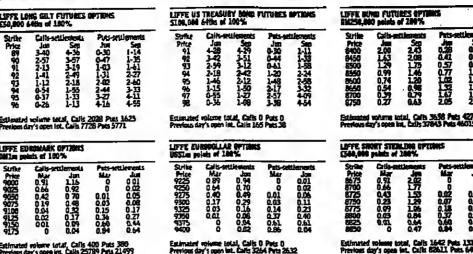
Consist	Mar 5	Day's spread	Clase	One month	% 92	Toree months	* 2
ritzertani . 2.5305 - 2.5450 2.5350 - 2.5450 14-1cpm 5.02 24-25.pm 24-25.pm 1.4155 - 1.4210 1.4150 - 1.4200 0.46-0.41cpm 3.68 1.07-1.01.pm 1.07-1.01.pm 3.67-7.01.pm 3.68-7.78.pm 3.67-7.78.pm 3.67-7.78.	prada	21905 - 22980 12800 - 32910 59.80 - 60.20 11.1785 - 11.2140 1.9910 - 1.1060 2.9101 - 2.9215 252.80 - 254.80 11.3620 - 11.4125 9.9110 - 9.9385 10.8015 - 10.8435 256.70 - 258.00	21985 - 21945 12800 - 12980 99.95 - 60.05 11.2025 - 11.2125 1.0940 - 1.0950 2.9125 - 2.9125 2.9125 - 2.9125 2.9125 - 2.9125 2.9125 - 2.9125 2.9125 - 2.9125 11.4025 - 11.4125 11.4025 - 11.4125 10.8225 - 10.8325 27.00 - 258.00	0.65-0.56cpm 14-1cpm 22-17cpm 31-24-0rspm 1-34ccsis 1-3-25coss 21-2-25coss 21-3-25pm 1-4-15pm 1-4-15pm 1-4-15pm	311 311 315 325 326 327 327 327 327 327 327 327 327 327 327	1.56-1.455m 24-2-5 pm 53-4-5 pm 74-6-5 pm 0.59-6.359m 24-2-4 pm 71-1-49dis 50-627 54-4-5 pm 74-7-7 pm 13-2-5 pm 24-2-2 pm 24-2-2 pm 24-2-2 pm	4271347377440136433
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med),		1,7270 - 1,7280	0.32-0.34cdis	-2.29	0.96-L01ds	-2.25
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¥	5.8546 - 5.8950	5.8900 - 5.8950	1.48-1.78o talls	-3.32	4.50-5.10ds	-3.2X
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		5.2200 - 5.2250	1.14-1.19offs	-2.60	3,38-3,48ds	-2.63
		5.6900 - 5.6950	2.50-2.75ordis	-5351	7.23-7.6865	-524
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	10.7275 • 10.7600		2.00-2.40 grods	-246	5.80-6,9006	-2.37
and .		13345 - 1,3355	0.15-0.18ah	-148 I	0.44-0.4765	-LY
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Polize 63 64 65 <td< th=""><th>Mar 5 .</th><th></th><th>7 Days ootice</th><th>Cine Month</th><th></th><th></th><th>Gree Year</th></td<>	Mar 5 .		7 Days ootice	Cine Month			Gree Year
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		E	CHA	NGE	CRO)55 I	RATE	\$		
Mar.5	£	5	DM	Yes	F Fr.	5 Ft.	K FL	Ura	C 5	B Pt.
£	0.526	1.902	2915 1533	275 1354	9.933 5.222	2540 1345	177	Z178 1145	113	66.00 31.50
DAI YEN	0.343 3.883	0.652 7.386	IT35	88.34 1900.	3.408 357	9.864	1276	747.2 8458	0.753 8.520	20.5
F Fr. S Fr.	1.007 0.394	1.915 0.749	2.935 1.148	259.2 101.4	10. 3.911	2.557 1	3.307 1.293	1195 857.5	2.209 0.864	60.40
H FL Ura	0.304 0.459	0.579 Q.873	0.887 1.338	78.39 118.2	3.024 4.561	0.773 1.166	1.508	663.0 1000.	0.668	19.20
C S S Fr	0.456 1.667	0.867 3.170	1.329	117.4	4.527 14.54	1158	1.497	992.7	3.657	27.32 100.

FINANCIAL FUTURES AND OPTIONS



ated volume Lotal, Calls 400 Pats 380	Estimated volume total, Calls O Pot
as day's open int. Calls 25789 Pats 21499	Previous day's open let. Calls 3264 Pe
DON (LIFFE)	CHICAGO

سلا الله	Cox 91-25 92-05	High 91-26 92-07	91-06 91-19	91 91
Estimate Previous	d volume 250 day's open io	62 (16249 L 37875 (1 41275)	
US TREA	SURY BOND 32nds of 1	5 8% 18%		

Mar	95-24	95-25	95-11	
Jos	94-31	95-02	94-20	
Estimate Presions	day's open in	1 118030 L 4774 (4	100	

	4	180%		-
Mar	85.42	25.46	84.92	84.5
Jess.	85.72	85.77	85.20	85.2

Mar	95.44 95.93	95.55 95.55	95.40 95.80	95
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27.66	High 87,67	87.57	27.59
68.77	88.80	88.66	88.64
89.Z7 89.43	89.29 89.43	89.17 89.36 89.34	89.20 89.36
89.42 89.37	89.41	89.34 89.30	69.36 89.30

Mar Jun Sep Dec	93.14 93.18 93.18 92.98 92.59	93.15 93.15 93.19 92.99	93.10 93.15 92.97	93.08 93.15 92.90 92.51
	tinc. fles. sc day's open in	4 Showed 5 L 44467 6		
THREE I	MANUEL RECEIPE	MARK		

Mar Jun Sep Dec Mar Jun	90.91 91.15 91.37 91.43 91.55 91.73	90.92 91.15 91.37 91.42 91.55	90.84 91.06 91.27 91.36 91.51	91.89 91.89 91.37 91.37 91.53
-	volume 128			74.00

	Core	Mich	Low	Prev.
Har.	90.42	90.43	90.39	90.36
Sep Dec	90,67	90.69	90.59	90.62
Sep	90.81	90,78	90,78	90,75
Dec	91.05	91.06	91.05	90.99

打集 1 25 pt	OF DEDEX	tet.		
Na Na Na Na Na Na Na Na Na Na Na Na Na N	Clase 2470.0 2470.0 2501.5	2438.0 2478.0	2377.0 2418.0	Pres. 2390.0 2429.5 2461.0
Est/arusto Previous	d volume LL day's open L	A6 (7049 L 33877	35237)	
Elino Si SFR 1m	MESS FRANC points of 10	0%		
	Close	High	Low.	Pitr.

ENINO ST SEN 1/1	VISS FRANC	1%		_
Mar Jun Sep Des	91.84 92.27 92.61 92.79	91.84 92.28 92.62 92.62 92.81	91.78 92.21 92.55 92.77	91.80 92.76 92.59 92.59
Estimate Proriors	day's open in	5 (1136) L 8591 (8	762)	
PO	UND	- D	OLL	AR

١	POU	ND -	DC	LL	AR
١	FT FOREIS	N EXCHANG	E RATES		_
l	Sent 1.9020	1-mb. 1.8910	3-mth. 1.8752	6-cst). 1.8542	12-qeb.
ĺ	BH-STEEL	Die Se per S	-		
	Mar Jun Ses	1,9036 1,8774	1,9040 1,8756 1,8590	1,9008 1,9754	Pres. 1.8944 1.8640

CAC-40 FUTURES (MATIF) Stock bale 1781.0

sted volume 78,785 Total Open Interest 120,408 DPTIME ON LONG-TERM FRENCH SOME DIATOR

93.95 94.01 93.91

PRIE ABELPHIA SE LIS OFFICIAL EST, 258 lesses per (1)

BASE LENDING RATES

		- LENDING		_
	%		%	
ABR Bank	13	Co-operative Bank	13	
tation & Company	13	Cootts & Co	13	
Illed Trest Bank	13	Crorus Popelar Bk	13	
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erry Ausbacher		Duncas Laurie	ĩ	
SSOCIALES CAN CAND		Egyptorial Bank pic	ĩ	
& C Merchant Bask		Exeter Bank Liquited	134	
ant of Baroda		Financial & Gra. Bark	ĩĩ °	•
anco Billos Vizzara.		First National Bank Pic.	16	•
ant Credit & Comm.		Robert Flembig & Co	13	
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Banque Belge Ltd Barcian Bank Bendmark Bank Brit Bk of Mid East Houstong & Shamplal ...

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Nat Westmisser Northern Bark Ltd ... duedit Mortgage Bank reriocial Bank PLC ank elc Unity Trest Bank Pic Western Trest Westpac Bank Corp. Whitevery Laidlew . Yorkshire Bank

Nat Bk. of Kuwait.

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MONEY MARKET FUNDS

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Money Market	Co-operative Sank	0800 6787
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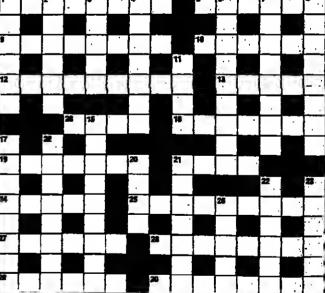
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JOTTER PAD

CROSSWORD

No.7,486 Set by CINEPHILE



ACROSS 1 Remove mountains returned in cubes (5) Way to retrieve from storage or temporarily from custody

9 Power can result from old town on the Ganges (8)

10 Primitive creature to be turned into an extinct bird

12 Poet swallows produce of keg left in friend's house

13, 14 Hard drug injection by

13, 14 Hard drug injection by expert marksman (5,4)
16 Undergo transformation for reward (7)
19 Ruler gets on during progress (7)
21, 24 Quietly show warm approval about love in a high building (9)
25 Intrude sleuth with artistic qualification into open wound (9)

wound (9) 27 Empty-headed, like putting

pig in cattery? (6)
28 Soft rich fabric makes
female sick in church (8)
29 Don't talk to listeners: they may be cutting (5)
30 English coin (old) for jour-nalist who has been to

DOWN 1 Solve mystery of fish in river (6)
2 Notice about comedian not

wanted on beach (6)

(3.3) 26 Section with projection (5) Solution to Puzzle No.7,485 Solution to Puzzle No.7,485

SUCKER COMPOSED

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3 Circuits point to drop in standard (5) 4 Nothing in old officer to

indicate a peerage (7) 6 Porify yourself before atten-

7 Green stones for red males?

8, 11 Garden pest eats ginger cake with doctor as starter

about a note (8)

20, 21 Very much inclined to be shrill (4-7)

22 Speculate about the world of

dance (6)
23 lt's beyond endurance? Finel

15 Combine a right garment with the lady outside (9)
17 Stress part of statement the MP has issued (8)
18 Protect from rude word

sion (4.5)

dance - make your confes-

MONEY MARKETS

A softer tone

INTEREST RATES were slightly easier at the short end on the London money market yeoterday, after the Bank of England forecast a relstively modest day-to-day credit shortage, but longer term rates were firmer. Three-month interbank was

quoted at 1211-12% compared with 12%-12% per cent, while 12-month money rose to 11%-11% from 11%-11% per cent. Trading in short sterling futures was subdued on Liffe. June was rather more active

UK clearing bank base lending rate 13 per cent from February 27, 1991

than March delivery. The June contract opened slightly lower at 88.68, but closed higher at 87.77, against 88.69 previously.

March also gained ground, rising to 87.66 from 87.59. The Bank of England forecast a money market credit shortage of £650m end provided total assistance of 9604m.

Before lunch the authorities bought £335m bills outright, by way of £19m Treasury bills in band 1 at 12% per cent; £72m bank bills in band 1 at 12% per cent; £1m Treasury bills in band 2 at 12% per cent; and £243m bank bills in band 2 at

12% per cent. In the afternoon another £199m bills were purchased, via £174m bank bills in band I at 12% per cent and £25m bank bills in band 2 at 12% per cent. Late assistance of around £70m

was also provided.

Bills maturing in official bands, repeyment of late assistance and a take-np of Treasury bills drained £617m, with exchequer transactions absorbing £40m and bank balances below target £65m. These outweighed a fall in the note circulation adding £65m to liquidity. to liquidity.
In Frankfurt call money was

unchanged at 8.85 per cent, as dealers waited to see whether the Bundesbank will fully replace the DM33.3bn draining from the money market today as two securities repurchase

agreements expire.

The central bank has offered new money to the market via a two-tranche tender for securities repurchase pacts, at a fixed rate of 8.50 per cent for 28-day funds and at variable

bid rates for 57-day money. In Madrid interbank rates were little changed, after the Bank of Spain's decision to keep its money market intervention rate nuchanged on Monday.

Three-month money rose to 14.26 from 14.22 per cent and six month funds were unchanged at 14.25 per cent, but dealers still expect an easing of credit policy in the

FT LONDON INTERBANK FIXING (11.00 a.m. Mar 51 3 months US Gollars

The fining rates are the artificación means rounded to the occarat consciutation, of the bild and offered rates for \$10 to qualitat to the market by the reference banks in \$1,000 a.m. each surviving day. The banks are distinual Westmingstor Bank. Bank of Yorkyon Described Bank Bank of Yorkyon Described Bank Bank of Westmingstor Trend

MONEY RATES Treasury Bills and Bonds tLunchtime) 91.9.00 91.91 9.00

LC	ONDO	N MC	NEY	RATE	S	
Mar 5	Overnight,	7 days notice	One Moeth	Three Months	Six Months	Gne Year
terhank Offer terhank 31st terh	134	134	1211 Manual 18 - 5-54	NNN NNNHHY	12.15.22 12.15.22 12.15.22 12.15.25.25.25.25.25.25.25.25.25.25.25.25.25	11111111111111111111111111111111111111

Treasury SHIs (sell); one-month 12% per cent; three months 11% per cent; six months 11% per cent; Sank CHIs (sell); one-month 12% per cent; three months 11% per cent; six months 11% per cent; Treasury SHIh; Average tender rate of discount 11.8531 p.c. ECGO Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make up day February 28.1991. Agreed rates for period Mar 26.1991 to Arri 22.1993. Scheme 1.14.21 p.c., Schemes II & HI. 14.63 p.c. Reference rate for period Feb 1.1991 to Feb.28.1991. Scheme 1.14.21 p.c., Schemes II & HI. 14.63 p.c. Reference rate for period Feb 1.1991 to Feb.28.1991. Scheme 1.14.21 p.c., Schemes II & HI. 14.63 p.c. Reference rate for period Feb 1.1991 to Feb.28.1991. Scheme 1.1991 to Feb.28.1991. Scheme 1.1991 to Feb.28.1991
K MARKETS

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March 5	FRANCE (continued) March 5 Fr. + oc -	GERMANY (contisued)	METHERLANDS	SWEDEN (continue)	_,
Austriao Abrilaes 3,000 +40 Creditanstali 3,250 +10 EA General 3,250 +10 H10 EA General 9,400 +100 Lienderbank 1,350 Celly Deliver Zenest 1,500 Radez Herakith 305 +20 Richinghaus Bree 1,900 Steyr Dalmier 398 49	Boargues 626 +16 CGIP CM 8 Packaging 139 50 +6 Canal+ 897 50 +6	Colonia Versich Pf 700 +12	All & Aury Hidday		-
Celly 8,990 50 Parimooser Zemest 1 500 Radex Harakijth 805 +20	Carrelour 416 +9.30 Carrelour 3.569 +193	Chathental AG 235 50 -16 DLW	Abold	Nobel Free70	
Reinlaghaus Brue 1,900 Steyr Dalonter 398 49 Veitscher Magnesk . 745 45 Vertund (Br) A 541 49	Cetelem 659 +22 Chargeurs 830 429 Ciments Fr 1,238 414	Chartmental AG 235.50 -16	Bersenij Webry Ct 83 -1.30 Sedrman Tell Ct 60,20 +2,20	200 X202 0 F/19 _ 200 +1	Out 24
Verbund (Br) A 541 49 Witeserberger 5,76020	Cosiff	Didier-Werke 195 +12 Douglas Hidg 715 -2 Dragsreens 275 +10	DAF 24 +1 105.40 +2.70 Dordtsche Petr 130.80 +0.40	Skandle Free 285 -5 Skandle Free 176 +1 Skan Enskilds C. 66 SKF 8 Free 94 -4 Ran Kop 8 Free 310 SCA B Free	379
BELGIUM/LUXEMBOURG	Cetelem	Fag Kegelfischer 360 -2 50 Gerrysteiner 368 +6	Centrale Sulter 78st -1.50 DAF 24 -1.50 DAF 24 -1.50 DAF 25 -1.50 -1.50 DAF	Srka Handi B Free 13) +3 Trefleborg B Free 123 +3 Volvo B Free 292	27
ACED-Union Mia . 2,810 +125 Arbes	Dates de France 3,961 +61 Dollus Mieg Cie 393 +13	Hapes Lloyd 358 +6	Gist Brocades 33 90 144.40 144.40 143 Hollad Scton 201 +3		
Bank Int. 2 Lux 12 529 +10 Sang Geo Linx Pts 12 400 Barco 1360 +30	East Cle Geni 2,522 +45 Ecco	Heidero Zern 1,075 +80 Henkel Pri 516 +10 Heriliz 400 -8 Hechilef 1,240 +8	Hinter Desglas 65.20 41.70 HIC Calland 52.50 +0.30 Int Mederland 48.40 41.10		
Betsert. 9.290 +740 CBR Ciment 7.570 -20 Cobepa	Festion in	Hochrief	Intl Montler 80 40.50 10.50	SWITZERLAND March 5 Fr. + or -	438 940 23
Cockeril) Priv 5,320 -380 Cokeril) Priv 170 49 Cokeril Priv 170 49	Eurocam 1717 +28 Eurocam 830 +22 Euro Disaey 114 90 +250	ledustriekredit 265 ledustrie Werke 293.50 +3 Kati & Salz 1431	Nestillord 52.70 +4 Nijserd-Tes Cate 85 +0.50 Nistrisla Ver Bedr 120.50 -1	Adla Inti (8r) 920 -60 Adia Ptg Ct. 100 -7 Airriste Lonza 1,110 +40 Airsursus Pto Cts. 95 40 +1	86
Electrabel	Euromarche	Karstadt 540 +5 Käefkof 455 -2.50 HHO 182 +6	Oce V Grist	Attracts Lones 1,110 40 Attracts Ptg Cts. 95 50 41 Balots Ptg Cts. 95 50 42 Brown Bowel Bri 4, 800 470 Brown Bowel Ptg 295 43 CS Mose	172 204
Fabrique Nat 94 -18 GBL AFY 1 3,520 GIB Group AFY 1,350 +90	From Cet Air 1,895 -5 GTM-Estrepose 425 +5 Gaurhous Got NO 925	Lahmeyer 1,000 Leffhelt 710 +5 Unde 794 50 +9 30	Philips 27.40 +0.20 PolyGram 33.20 +1.40 Robecs 96.80 +0.60	Ciba Geigy (Br) 2,800 Ciba Geigy (Reg) 2,465 +10	22
GIS Group	Geophysique 775 +1 Geophysique 770 +10 Hachette 231 +4 Karas 554 +14	Lindtype	Roteco	Den Grey (P. O.) 2,440 +60 Elektrowski 3,060 -10 Elekt 2,100 +10 Flacher (Geo) 1,530 -10	
March 5 Fr. + 87 - ACED-Union Mile 2,810 +125 Arbed 3,820 +30 SRI. 2,510 +10 Bank Intl a Lmx 12,525 Bang Geal Lm Pis 12,400 Barco 1,500 +300 Berksert 7,570 -30 Cobeps AFV1 5,700 -90 Cockerill Priv 170 -99 Colonyl 170 -99 Colonyl 170 -99 Colonyl 3,200 +105 Delbalze Frs Lida 6,800 +150 Delbalze Frs Lida 6,800 +150 Delbalze Frs Lida 6,800 +150 Electrabel AFV 4,720 +10 Electrabel AFV 4,720 +10 Electrabel AFV 1,3500 +20 Gell Group AFV 1,3500 +20 Gell Group AFV 1,3500 +20 Gell Group AFV 1,3500 +10 Cockeril 1,750 -60 Gell Group 1,240 +40 Gell Group AFV 1,3500 +10 Gell Group 1,240 +40 Gell G	Second	Holizmann Pb 1 265 +2 Horizmann Pb 1 265 Horizmann Pb 1 265 Horizmann Pb 1 265 Industriekrofft 265 Industriekrofft 265 Industriekrofft 265 Industrie Werke 273.50 +3 Karl & Salz 143 -1 Kardanot 455 -2.50 HHO 152 +6 Klockner Werke 136 -1 Klockner Werke 136 -1 Lidekryer 1,000 Leffhelt 710 +5 Loke 774-50 +2.30 Linotype 594 +17 Lurkanna 128 +0.50 Lafthama 4/r Prf 114.10 -0.90 MAN 377.50 +7 IRAM Pref 307.50 +	VMF Stort 48.60 +0.60	Brown Boveri Ptg 295 CS Höjs 1,770 Clika Gelgy (Bri 2,800 Clika Gelgy (Reg) 2,460 Din Gelgy (Reg) 2,440 Ho Clie Gelgy (Reg) 2,440 Elektrowski 3,060 Elyis 2,100 Fischer (Geo) 1,530	
Kredietbank	Industrielle 4,190	Mercedes Hid 511 +16 Metallosselischaft 488 Manch Runk (Reg) _ 2,500	Welters Hierrer 51.60 -1	Jetmoil	902
Petrofina 11275 +100 Powerfin 2810 +25 Powerfin AFV 2720 +10 Royale Beige 4,530 +60	Intertectables 1,250 +14 LVMH 3,880 +5 Lafarye Coppee 404.20 +7.40 La Henin 566 +16	Metallipselischeft 488	NORWAY March 5 Kraner + 27 -	Lendi & Gr 1.180 +20 Lendi & Frie Pis 110 +5 Les Hold (Br) 1,420 -10 Les Hold (Br) 229 -6 May Globar Pig 880	905 864 136 141 128
Notice Belge AFV	L'Great	Ricinetektra 1,800 +5 Racinmetall Berlin 341.50 +7.50 Rhelametall Prf 213 +9	Aker A Free	Miliron (Reg)	1725 4233
	Matra 295 +14.40 Merita-Gerin 559 +6 Michella 8 92 +2.70	Portche 225 +6 Prinstag 23 +8 Richnelckura 1,800 +5 Ractenetail Sevim 341.50 +7.50 Richenetail Fri 213 49 Richen West El 388.50 -0.50 Riche West El 71 316.80 -2.70 Rosenthal 317 -1.20 Schering 773 +13.50 Schrake 277 +2.20 Schering 273 +2.20 Schering 42 50	March 5 Kraser + gr - Aler A Free 117 + 4 Bergezea A 144 + 1 Christiana Bi Free 122 + 2 Oyno Ind 119 122 + 2 Oyno Ind 119 155 Inthiana Bip A Free 120 + 5 Inthiana Bip A Free 200 + 5 Lift Roesh 78 + 1.30 Kora Ind A Free 250 43 Morsk Data A 30 -1 Morsk Data A 30 -1 Marker Sing A Free 150 +3 Ortic Borrey Free 200 + 6 Saga Pet A Free 122 -1 Sign Pet B Free 115 -1 Storris B 18 18 18 Unitor Ships Sw 90.50 -0.50 Vard AS A 88	Mass Globus Prg	253 14
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Wagons Lits	0FP 1636 +26 0rsan 183 -6 Paribas 499 +9	Thrisen led	Norsk Hydro 190.30 +1 Narsk Sing A Free 150 +3 Orkia Borrey Free 200 +6	Sandoz (81)	1937 18
DERMARK March 5 Kr + er -	0rsm 183 49 49 49 49 Paribas 499 49 49 49 49 49 49 49 49 49 49 49 49	VEW 222 +7.20 Versia-West 325 +10 Vleg 336.90 +3.40 Valkousann 36.0 +0.50	Saga Pet & Free	Sika Reg A 750 -50 Sorwilliance (Br) -6.840 +40 Serinsale -5 Suits Bank (Br) -301 +2	32
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Gen Store Nord 836 -4 Hafala Invest A 765 -15 Sigti Serv B 855 +4 Jyske Bank Reg 378 +3	Roossel-Uctar 1.800 -20 StLIC	ITALY Starch 5 Line + or -		Survey Surv	NE
PSS let! Serv 8	Sagem 1.570 +10 Salett Gobale 441.50 +16.60 Salet Louis 1.403 +15 Sanel 227 +23 Schelder 757 +28	Banca Comm 4 375 +5 Banca Max Agric 7 000 +246	Alba (Corp Fin) 5,900 460 Aragonesis 1,475 465 Astand 1,475 465 Basco Bilban Vizz 2,913 455 Basco Central 4,595 455 Basco Exterior 5,480 45 Basco Hispeno 2,785 450 Basco Popelar 10,100 4240 Basco Santander 5,110 430		- photos
Haffala Intest A	Scheider	Banco Larizato	Banco Hispano 2,785 +30 Basco Popeliar 10,100 +240 Banco Santander 5,110 +30 Banco Santander 3,700 +55	SOUTH AFRICA	Home
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FINLANO March 5 Mka + or -	Spec Satignolles	Credito Italiano 2,570 +10 Dasieli & C	Enders (Br)	AEG 1425 Allied Tech 89.50 Angle Am Cozi 95 Angle Am Corp 100.25 +3 Angle Am Cold 201.50 +4.50 Barlow Raed 38.50 +0.25	STA
Amer	Total Fr Petro 8 662 +7 ILAP 572 -2 UFB Locaball 274 +0.10	Eniment 1,551 Eridania 7,496 -32 Ferruzzi Fis 2,250 +20 Fist 77 3,845 +35 Fist 77 3,845 +35 Fist 900 -125 Genina 39,900 -125 Genina 1,780 +15	Fectal	Barlow Rand 38.50 +0.25 Barlfets	Compo
	Union immob Fr 580 -15 Valeo	Fidis 5,998 -22 Foodaria 39,900 -125 Genine 1,780 +15	December 14	Deeltraal Gold 6.70 Oriefonteln	Flores
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Bridgestone 1,110 -30 Brother ind 635 -1	Kansal Et Power 2,830 +70 Kansal Paint	Nipport Rose	okal Carbos 783 -32 oklon	Srokla (Hwd) 4.56 Stockland Tsl 2.01 -0.01	Toron B3. 1 Unava
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Canon Sales 3,800 +30 Casio Computer 1,190 +30	Kalverski Steet	Nippou Soda 806 +5 Nippou Stainices 806 +1 Nippou Steel 486 -8 Nippou Sokuu , 578 +8	okyo Electron 5.500 -20 okyo Gas	ACCOMPANY TO THE AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND	
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Dai Nippon Pterstac 2,000 Dai Nippon Print 1,650 430 Dai Nippon Toryo 585 -6	1000 1000	Obbarrebl-Com 1 230 420	Octob Corp 631 -15	Henderson land 2.37 +0.06 Henderson Land 10.10 +0.10	
Daishowa Paper 3,850 +250 Dai Tokyo F&M 880 +25 Daiwa Suek 1,420 -10 Daiwa Bure 1,950 -10	Lion Corp	Olf Paper 992 -3 Old Electric 778 -13 Obuma Mach 1,280 +30 Obumura Gord 1530 -20 Olympus 1,110 +20	IRF tods Als	HK & China Sep 11.50 -0.10 HK & Stemplel Bank 5.75ml HK & Stemplel Hatel 4.75 -0.08 HK & Alexant 18.20	<u> </u>
Daiwa Sec 1.330 Denny's Japan 3.490s: +10 Dana Fire & Mar 816 +1	Maeda Corp 1.730 -16 Makino Milling 1.130 -10 Makina Elect 1.860 -20 Marubesi	Olympus 1.110 +20 Ororen Corp 2.220 +10 Osoda Cement 714 -12	Victor UVC) 1,700 -40	HK Electric 11 +0.10 HK Land 8.35 +0.10 HK Resity & Tr A 5.05	
Douz Mining Co 790 +22 Ebera Corp	Marudai Food 3, 180 +120 Marudai Food 2, 110 +20 Marudai Stee! 1640 -40 M'shita El Ind 1, 1820 +20 M'shita El Ind 1, 1820 +20 M'shita Koto 1, 1870 +20	Oraron Corp 2,220 +10 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Waccal	HH Telecomms 7.30 +0.15 Hopswell Hidgs 3.87 +0.02 Hutchison Wpa 13.80 +0.40 Hysan Dev	
Face	M'shita El Wk 1,610 -20 M'shita Koto 1,870 +20 M'shita Koto 1,170 +20	Penta Gesan	Famalchi Scorrilles 9914 Yarrianouchi 3,250 +80 Yarrianouchi 2,200 -90 Yarriano Kogyo 1,74010	Ind Equity P 7.60 -0 10 Jardine Intl Mtr 3.77 +0.02 Jardine Math 31.75 +0.50 Jardine Strategic . 16.40 +0.60	}
Foli Electric 825 -5 Foli Film 3,590 -10 Poli Film 950 +8	Melji Milk	Prima Ment Pack	Yamato Yransport 1,350 +40 Yamazaki Baking . 1,600 Yasada Fire	Kowlood Motor 7.30 +0.25 Mandarin Orient 5.50 -0.30 New World Dev 9 -0.05	
Fall Heavy Ind	Mercian Corp 1,000 +20 Micros Corp 1,000 +20 Micros Corp 1,020 +24 Minotta Camera 686 -19 Missawe Home 1,810 -40 Missawe Home 1,810 -40 Missawe Home 2,250 -20	Royal Co 1880 +50 Ryobi	Yokopawa Ejec 1,480 -50 Yokopawa (Bank) . 1,240 -10 Yokobama Rabber _ 835 -10	SHIR Props	
Ezaki Gilez	M*bishi Bk	Santina Sant	Versicht	Start Darby 4.95 -0 20 Set Heng Kai Co 2.40 -0 02 Serire Pacific A 18.50 -0 30 Serire Pacific A 18.50	ŀ
Calden 1,360 +30 Gen Settys 1,160 +30 Gen Settys 1,160 +30 Gen Cross 1,160 -10 Gen Cross 900 -30 Gen Gen Gen Gen Gen Gen Gen Gen Gen Gen	M'bishi Estate 1.540 M'bishi Gas Chem 530 -25 M'bishi Henry Ied 810 -15 M'bishi Kasel 669 49	Samva Bask	Zexel Corp 741 -19	HK Electric 11 40.10 HK Land 835 +0.10 HK Land 730 +0.10 HK Rainly 6 ir A 5.05 HI Telecomm 7.30 +0.15 HI Telecomm 7.30 +0.15 Huschison Wpa 13.87 +0.02 Huschison Wpa 13.80 +0.40 Hysan Dev 13.6 +0.02 Ind Egetity P 7.60 -0.10 Jurdine Inti Mtv 3.77 +0.02 Jurdine Inti Mtv 3.77 +0.02 Jurdine Inti Mtv 3.77 +0.02 Jurdine Inti Mtv 3.77 +0.02 Jurdine Marth 31.75 +0.00 Jurdine Inti Mtv 3.77 +0.00 Jurdine Marth 5.50 -0.30 New Warld Dev 9 -0.05 Realty Dev A 8.20 SHIP Props 17.80 -0.02 Shall Elec Mitg 1.77 -0.04 Shall Elec Mitg 1.77 -0.04 Shall Elec Mitg 1.77 -0.04 Shall Elec Mitg 1.77 -0.04 Shall Elec Mitg 3.30 -0.00 Switze Pacific A 18.30 -0.30 Switze Pacific A 18.30 -0.30 Whart Holdings 9.35 +0.05 Whart Holdings 9.35 +0.05 Whard Holdings 9.35 +0.05 Whard Holdings 9.35 +0.05 Whard Holdings 9.35 +0.05 Whard Holdings 9.35 +0.05 Whard Holdings 9.35 +0.05 Whard Holdings 9.35 +0.05 Whard Holdings 9.35 +0.05 Whard Holdings 9.35 +0.05	
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Heranti-Guml	Mr bishi Trō.Bk 1,670 +10 Mr bishi Warebouse 1,470 +10 Mr bishi Warebouse 1,470 +10 Mr bishi Co	Settsu Corp	Asimon 1.36 +0.01	Boastead	
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Hitachi Keidi 1 540 +30 Hitachi Keidi 1 540 +10 Hitachi Metali 1 330 -20	Mitsel Petchem 950 -14 Mitsel Real Estate 1,520 Mitsel Talyo Kobe 1,870 Mitsel Toutst 528 -12	Shiceto 2160 +20 Shiceto 2160 +20 Shochita 3,420 -10 Shokhita 1010 +53	STR Nylex 2.75	Sime Darby	
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wint Back Japon 3,430 +120 beking Cb 1 631 -12 beking Cb 1 2,850 -12	NEK Spark Prog 591 -19 NHK Spring 437 -8 NKK Corp 910 -20 NOK Corp 910 -20	Sentence Clemical — 525 — 5 Sumitore Clemical — 525 — 5 Sumitore Corp — 1100 — 20 Samitore Elect — 1,430 — 3 Sumitore Light H — 680 — 10 Sumitore Light H — 680 — 10	Mrg/ Res	Straits Trading 3.12 +0 20 Tat Lee Bank 3.66 +0 04 U08	
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ton IC 734 -5 Total Foot: 942 +2 Total Co 660 +100 to 2016 7 4 200 +10	NKK COT9	Samitaro Lipita II	Telepher Callings	Price data supplied by Telekura. NOTES — Prices on this page are as quoted on the individual exchanges	

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4 1 28 27 elodastriais 2914.11 2909.90 2882.18 2889.	High LOW High LOW High LOW 111 254.65 2470.36 2997.75 47.22 1157.27 (Hz) ANSTRALIA AN Orderics (1/180) 1375 0 AN Holony (1/180) 592.3 AUSTRUA Fords Ables (10/12/89) 491.19 intl. Anna	1367.2 12 604.6 (429.59 4	96.2 1465.6 507.8 605.5 90.29 495.74	HIGH 1413.4 (04/2) 412.0 (25/2) 505.54 (25/2)	1204.5 (14/1) 561.6 (14/1) 390.84 (15/1)	
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4 1 28 27 photostriais 2914.11 2909.90 2882.18 2889. Home Socie 93.75 93.79 93.8 Transport 1142.45 1150.74 1131.17 1131. Utilities 212.02 213.34 212.78 213.4	High LOW High LOW High LOW 111 254.65 2470.36 2997.75 47.22 1157.27 (Hz) ANSTRALAA AND Bribantes (1/L/MID) 1375.0 AND Bribantes (1/L/MID) 1375.0 AND Bribantes (1/L/MID) 591.3 AND BRIBANTEIA FUNER, AND BRIBANTEIA BRIBANTEIA BRIBANTEIA BRIBANTEIA BRIBANTEIA BRIBANTEI BRI	4 1367.2 12 604.6 (489.59 4/ 5421.11 544 346.19 3	996.2 1495.6 507.8 605.5 90.29 495.74 17.36 5613.78 95.91 346.00	HIGH 143.4 GH/2 412.8 CS/22 375.54 CS/22 5334.74 (5/3) 349.71 CS/22	1294.5 (14/1) 582.6 (14/1) 390.84 (15/1) 4664.84 (16/1) 302.26 (8/1)	
4 1 28 27 photostriais 2914.11 2909.90 2882.18 2889. Home Socis 93.76 93.73 93.79 93.8 Transport 1142.45 1150.74 1131.17 1131. Iklinies 212.02 213.34 212.78 213.4 STANDARD AND POOR'S	Highl LOW Highl LOW 11 2154.65 2470.30 2999.75 41.22 41.20 4	ALISTRALA AD Britanis (1/180) 1375.0 AD Britanis (1/180) 591.3 AD Britanis (1/180) 591.3 AD Britanis (1/180) 591.3 AD Britanis (1/180) 543.74 Britanis SE (1/180) 543.74 Drombages SE (3/189) 6al FREL AND HEX General (28/12/90) 1015.6 FRANCE	4 1387.2 11 604.6 (695.9) 4/6 5671.11 567 346.19 3/1014.5 11	995.2 1405.6 607.8 605.5 90.29 495.74 127.36 5613.78 15.91 346.00 1013.3 1016.7	HIGH 1413.4 OA20 412.0 CS120 505.54 CS20 5634.74 G(3) 349.71 CS120	1.0W 1294.5 (1A/1) 581.6 (1A/1) 581.6 (1A/1) 390.84 (15/1) 4464.84 (16/1) 302.26 (8/1) 890.5 (23/1)
4 1 28 27 phodustriais 2914.11 2909.90 2882.18 2889. Home Socis 93.76 93.73 93.79 93.8 Transport 1142.45 1150.74 1131.17 1131. Itilities 212.02 213.34 212.78 213.4	Highl LOW Highl LOW 11 2154.65 2470.30 2999.75 41.22 41.20 4	ALISTRALAA ASI Berkaries (1/1800) 1375.0 ASI Berkaries (1/1800) 594.3 ALISTRIAA FORE ARION (1/12/04) 491.19 BEEL GRUM Brassels, SE GOAL BEED (1/1800) 5454.74 DECHMAAND Deparkages SE GE/1/539 (a) FUEL ARION BEEL GRUM Deparkages SE GE/1/539 (a) FUEL ARION BEEL GRUM Deparkages SE GE/1/539 (a) FUEL ARION BEEL GRUM Deparkages SE GE/1/539 (a) FUEL ARION EX General (51/12/80) 1015.6 FUEL GRUM DECK GENERAL (51/12/80) 472.14 CAL 40 (51/12/80) 1000.63	4 1387.2 11 604.6 1 6 604.	996.2 1495.6 507.8 605.5 90.29 495.74 17.36 5613.78 95.91 346.00	HIGH 143.4 GH/2 412.8 CS/22 375.54 CS/22 5334.74 (5/3) 349.71 CS/22	1294.5 (14/1) 582.6 (14/1) 390.84 (15/1) 4664.84 (16/1) 302.26 (8/1)
1 28 27	High LOW High LOW	ANSTRALA A AND Bridscher (1/L/R0) 1375.0 AND Bridscher (1/L/R0) 591.3 AND STRAL AND STRAL COURT AND COUNTY AND	4 1367.2 11 604.6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6	96.2 1465.6 507.8 465.5 50.29 495.74 10.29 495.74 10.30 5613.78 56.91 346.00 10.33 1016.7 10.12 465.56 10.79 79 79 10.61 1879.2	HIGH 1413.4 CA(2) 142.0 CA(2) 1503.54 CA(2) 543.4.74 CA(3) 341.71 CA(2) 1614.7 CA(2) 472.14 CA(3) 1806.83 CA(3) 173.11 CA(3) 173.11 CA(3) 173.11 CA(3)	1.CHW 1204.5 (1.6/1) 581.6 (1.6/1) 390.14 (15/1) 4664.14 (1.6/1) 302.26 (9/1) 890.5 (23/1) 394.88 (15/1) 4625.26 (15/1) 1812.5 (15/1) 1812.5 (15/1)
4 1 28 27 statementals 291A11 2909.90 2882.19 2899. Nome Boards 93.76 93.73 93.79 93.89 Transport 1142.65 1150.74 1137.17 1131. ItUlaties 212.02 213.34 212.78 213.4 STANDARD AND POOR'S Composite: 349.33 570.47 367.07 367.07 167	High LOW High LOW	ALISTRALAA ASI Bridanins (1/1800) 1375.0 ASI Bridanins (1/1800) 594.3 ALISTRIA FURIL GOULD (1/12/204) 491.19 BESL GOULD (1/12/204) 491.19 BESL GOULD (1/12/204) 491.19 BESL GOULD (1/12/204) 5634.74 DECHMANK Depologies SE GEL/ESS 64 FURIL ARKO EX General (26/12/90) 1015.6 FURIL ARKO EX General (26/12/90) 1015.6 FURIL GOULD (1/12/204) 472.14 CAL 60 CULT (1/12/204) 47	4 1387.2 11 601.6 (6 149.59) 4/4 (6	76.2 1465.6 1675.8 465.5 162.9 476.74 17.36 5613.78 165.91 346.00 1813.3 1616.7 165.96 162.79 165.96 162.79 165.96 162.99 165.96 162.99 165.96 162.99 165.96 162.99 165.96 162.99 165.96 162.99 165.96 162.99 165.96	HIGH 1415.4 04/20 1412.0 02/02 305.54 05/20 5454.74 05/30 349.71 05/20 1014.7 08/20 472.14 05/30 1806.83 05/30 1905.1 05/20 1905.1 05/20 1401.15 05/20	1.CNW 120A.5 (1A/12) 561.6 (1A/12) 390.84 (15/12) 4464.84 (16/12) 302.26 (8/12) 890.5 (23/12) 394.88 (15/12) 1425.26 (15/12)
1 28 27	High LOW High LOW	ALISTRALAA ASI Bridanins (1/1800) 1375.0 ASI Bridanins (1/1800) 594.3 ALISTRIA AND TRIA BRIDGINS (1/1800) 594.3 ALISTRIA Drawlel SC (1/1800) 641.19 BRILGOUTH Bridge SC (1/1800) 5634.74 Dependance Dependance Dependance Dependance Dependance Dependance Dependance Dependance Company Dependance Company Dependance CAC General (13/1/2800) 10015.6 PRAMICE CAC General (13/1/2800) 472.14 CAC General (13/1/2800) 472.14 CAC GO (13/1/2800) 10015.6 PRAMICE CAC General (13/1/2800) 659.47 Company Dependance Company Dependance	4 1387.2 12 604.6 6 6 604.6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6	995.2 1405.6 1677.8 405.5 10.29 495.74 17.36 5613.78 15.41 346.09 1013.3 1006.7 1279.79 48.67 662.95 1674.7 1572.29 16.74 1572.29 16.74 1572.29	HIGH 1413.4 Gag2 412.6 G242 305.54 G542 565.474 G59 349.71 G542 1014.7 G812 472.14 G573 1806.13 G593 678.31 G542 1955.1 G552 2608.49 G593	1.0 W 1204.5 (14/1) 561.6 (14/1) 390.84 (15/1) 4464.84 (16/1) 390.26 (8/1) 890.5 (23/1) 890.5 (23/1) 1465.8 (15/1) 1465.8 (15/1) 1570.6 (15/1) 1570.6 (15/1) 1570.6 (15/1) 1570.8 (15/1)
1 28 27	High LOW High LOW	ANSTRALAA AN Britantes (1/1/80) 1375.0 AN Britantes (1/1/80) 591.3 ANBETRIA FURR. ARIAN COULERO 491.19 BRITAN COUNTRIAN COUNTR	4 1387.2 11 604.6 (6 649.59 44 689.59 44 689.59 44 689.59 44 689.59 44 689.59 46 689.5	998.2 1405.6 167.8 465.5 10.29 495.74 127.36 5613.78 15.91 346.09 151.3 1016.7 16.12 465.56 16.79 1759.79 16.42 165.29 16.42 165.29 16.43 1652.95 16.43 1652.95 16.44 1552.95 16.44 1552.95 16.44 1552.95	HIGH A13.4 04/2 A12.0 02/2 505.54 05/2 505.54 05/2 505.74 05/2 1014.7 08/2 472.14 05/3 1800.43 05/3 678.31 02/2 1905.1 02/2 1905.1 02/2 1905.1 02/2 1905.1 02/2 1905.1 02/2 1905.1 02/2 1905.1 02/2 1905.1 02/2 1905.1 02/2 1905.1 02/2	1.00W 120A.5 (16/1) 551.6 (16/1) 390.84 (15/1) 466A.84 (16/1) 302.26 (8/1) 890.5 (23/1) 394.88 (15/1) 1252.56 (15/1) 1311.82 (16/1) 1311.82 (16/1) 1311.82 (16/1)
1 28 27	High LOW High LOW	ALISTRALAA AN Deliantes (1/1/80) 1375.0 All Mining (1/1/80) 591.3 ALISTRAL AND TRIA COURT AND (1/1/80) 491.19 BELLIZOUMA Bresich SE (Cash Mital (1/1/80) 563A.74 Dependance Dependance Dependance Dependance Dependance Dependance Dependance DEX Sentral (28/1/29) 1005.6 FPRANCE CAC Sentral (28/1/290) 1005.6 FPRANCE CAC Sentral (28/1/280) 472.14 CAC Sentral (31/1/280) 599.47 BAC (20/1/280) 1590.43 DEPENDANCE (1/1/280) 1590.26 DESEQ OPERAL (1/1/1/20) 1596.26 DESEQ OPERAL (1/1/1/20) 562.50 DESEQ OPERAL (1/1/1/20) 562.50 DESEQ OPERAL (1/1/1/20) 562.50 DESEQ OPERAL (1/1/1/20) 562.50	4 1367.2 12 604.6 6 604.6 6 6 604.6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6	998.2 1405.6 1677.8 465.5 162.9 495.74 127.36 5613.78 165.91 346.00 1013.3 1016.7 1599.79 165.71 165.71 1	HIGH MISA 04/20 MISA 05/20	1.CNW 1204.5 (1.6/1) 581.6 (1.6/1) 390.14 (1.5/1) 4664.14 (1.6/1) 302.26 (9/1) 890.5 (23/1) 394.89 (1.5/1) 1405.26 (1.5/1) 1407.5 (1.5/1) 1407.5 (1.5/1) 1407.5 (1.5/1) 1407.5 (1.5/1) 1407.5 (1.5/1) 1407.5 (1.5/1) 1407.5 (1.5/1) 1407.5 (1.5/1) 1407.5 (1.5/1) 1407.5 (1.5/1)
### 1 28 27 27 27 28 27 27 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28	High LOW High LOW	AND TRANSA IA. AND Bridgeries (1/L/R00) 1375.0 AND Bridgeries (1/L/R00) 579.3 AND STRUM (1/L/R00) 579.3 AND STRUM (1/L/R00) 579.3 AND STRUM (1/L/R00) 579.3 AND STRUM (1/L/R00) 5434.74 DECREMANNE (1/L/R00) 5634.74 DECREMANNE (1/L/R00) 5634.74 DECREMANNE (1/L/R00) 1005.6 PER AND EX (1/L/L/R00) 1005.6 PER AND EX (1/L/L/R00) 1006.83 DECREMANNE (1/L/L/R00) 1006.83 DECREMANNE (1/L/L/R00) 1006.83 DECREMANNE (1/L/L/R00) 1006.89 DECREMANNE (1/L/L/R00) 1006.89 DECREMANNE (1/L/L/R00) 1006.89 DECREMANNE (1/L/R00) 1006.89 DECREMANNE (1	4 1397.2 11 604.6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6	96.2 1465.6 507.8 465.5 50.29 495.74 127.36 5613.78 56.91 346.00 513.3 1616.7 54.12 465.56 54.79 1759.79 56.11 1972.2 16.74 1542.09 52.37 3652.14 52.88 1390.48 61.46 572.52 51.66 1360.37	HIGH 1413.4 CA(2) 1412.6 CZ(2) 305.54 CS(2) 5434.74 CS(3) 349.71 CZ(2) 1014.7 CZ(2) 472.14 S(3) 1800.83 G(3) 1955.1 CZS(2) 1955.1 CZS(2) 2608.49 S(3) 382.09 CZ(2) 2845.275 CZ(2) 2845.275 CZ(2)	1.CNW 1204.5 (1.6/1) 581.6 (1.6/1) 390.14 (1.5/1) 4664.14 (1.6/1) 302.26 (97) 190.5 (23/1) 190.5 (23/1) 194.80 (1.5/1) 182.5 (1.5/1) 1812.5 (1.5/1) 1812.5 (1.5/1) 1812.5 (1.6/1) 2904.00 (1.6/1) 1114.86 (25/1) 486.25 (29/1) 2244.27 (1.6/1) 2242.20 (07/1)
## 1 28 27 27 27 28 27 27 27 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28	High LOW High LOW	ANDTORNAL AA AND Defination (17,180) AND Defination (17,180) AND Defination (17,180) AND Defination (17,180) AND Defination (17,180) AND DEFINATION (17,180) MEX. (20,118) MEX. (20,118) MEX. (20,118) Department (20,118) MEX. (2	4 1387.2 11 604.6 6 6 604.6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6	M6.2 1465.6 167.8 465.5 162.9 495.74 167.36 5613.78 165.91 346.00 1013.3 1016.7 1013.3 1016.7 1016.7 1592.9 16.74 1592.9 1	HIGH 1413.4 04/20 1412.0 02/20 305.54 02/20 305.54 02/20 306.71 02/20 1014.7 02/20 1014.7 02/20 472.14 05/30 1806.83 05/30 1905.13 02/20 1905.13 02/20 1905.13 02/20 1905.14 02/20 3006.09 05/30 302.09 05/20 26452.75 02/20 1905.44 02/20 3026.07 04/30	1.0 W 1204.5 (1.471) 581.6 (1.471) 390.14 (1.571) 4464.14 (1.671) 390.24 (2.71) 1805.5 (2.371) 1805.5 (2.371) 1805.6 (2.571) 1805.6 (2.571) 1812.6 (1.571) 1812.6 (1.571) 1812.6 (2.571) 1812.6 (2.571) 1812.6 (2.571) 1812.6 (2.571) 1812.6 (2.571) 1812.6 (2.571) 1812.6 (2.571) 1812.7 (1.671) 1812.7 (1.671) 1812.7 (1.671) 1812.7 (1.671) 1812.7 (1.671) 1812.7 (1.671)
### 1 28 27 ###################################	Hight LOW Hight LOW	ANDTRIALA AS Britantes (1/1800) 1375.9 ASI Britantes (1/1800) 1375.9 ASI Britantes (1/1800) 594.3 AUBSTRUA FURE ARRIVES Britantes (1/1284) 491.19 BELL GRUNN Britantes SE (1/1284) 491.19 BELL GRUNN Britantes SE (1/1284) 40 BER CONTROL (1/1284) 40 BER CONTROL (1/1287) 100 BER CONTROL (1/1287) 100 BER CONTROL (1/1287) 100 BER CONTROL (1/1287) 1375.7 BER CONTROL (1/1287) 1375.7 BER CONTROL (1/1287) 1375.7 BER CONTROL (1/1287) 1375.7 BER CONTROL (1/1287) 1375.7 BER CONTROL (1/1287) 1375.7 BER CONTROL (1/1287) 1375.7 BER CONTROL (1/1287) 1375.7 BER CONTROL (1/1287) 1375.80 BER DORSAIL (1/1287) 1	4 1387.2 11 604.6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6	998.2 1405.6 167.8 405.5 167.8 405.5 1613.78 165.9 495.74 17.36 5613.78 165.91 346.09 1813.3 1016.7 1592.79 168.67 662.95 1696.2 1799.79 168.67 662.95 1696.2 1790.48 161.46 572.32 181.57 2840.12 1790.28 171.61 2790.28 171.61 2790.32 171.61 2790.3	HIGH 1415.A GA(2) 1412.B C25(2) 305.54 C25(2) 505.54 C25(2) 1014.7 C25(2) 1014.7 C25(2) 1014.7 C25(2) 1015.1 C25(2) 1	1.0 W 1204.5 (1A/1) 561.6 (1A/1) 370.84 (15/1) 4464.84 (16/1) 302.26 (8/1) 870.5 (23/1) 870.5 (23/1) 130.26 (15/1) 140.25 (15/1) 151.26 (15/1)
1 28 27	High LOW High LOW	ANSTRALAA AND Britantes (1/L/RID) AND Britantes (1/L/RID) AND Britantes (1/L/RID) AND Britantes AND Britantes AND Britantes AND Britantes Britante	4 1387.2 11 604.6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6	M6.2 1465.6 167.8 465.5 162.9 495.74 167.36 5613.78 165.91 346.00 1013.3 1016.7 1013.3 1016.7 1016.7 1592.9 16.74 1592.9 1	HIGH 1413.4 04/20 1412.0 02/20 305.54 02/20 305.54 02/20 306.71 02/20 1014.7 02/20 1014.7 02/20 472.14 05/30 1806.83 05/30 1905.13 02/20 1905.13 02/20 1905.13 02/20 1905.14 02/20 3006.09 05/30 302.09 05/20 26452.75 02/20 1905.44 02/20 3026.07 04/30	1.0 W 1204.5 (1.471) 581.6 (1.471) 390.14 (1.571) 4464.14 (1.671) 390.24 (2.71) 1805.5 (2.371) 1805.5 (2.371) 1805.6 (2.571) 1805.6 (2.571) 1812.6 (1.571) 1812.6 (1.571) 1812.6 (2.571) 1812.6 (2.571) 1812.6 (2.571) 1812.6 (2.571) 1812.6 (2.571) 1812.6 (2.571) 1812.6 (2.571) 1812.7 (1.671) 1812.7 (1.671) 1812.7 (1.671) 1812.7 (1.671) 1812.7 (1.671) 1812.7 (1.671)
1 28 27 27	Hight LOW Hight LOW	ANDTRIALA AND Bribarter (1/1/80) 1375.0 AND Bribarter (1/1/80) 1375.0 AND Bribarter (1/1/80) 599.3 ANDTRIA CHER ARTHER (1/1/80) 599.3 ANDTRIA FORE ARTHER (1/1/80) 491.19 BELLEOUEN BELLEOUEN Breach SE (Couth Mind (1/1/80) 5634.74 Dependance Control (1/1/80) 1015.6 PROMACH (1/1/80) 1015.6 PROMACH (1/1/80) 1015.6 PRAMICE (1/1/2/80) 1015.6 PRAMICE (1/1/2/80) 1015.6 PRAMICE (1/1/2/80) 100.43 BELLEOUEN (1/1/2/80) 1094.80 BELLEOUEN (1/1/80) 1095.80 BELLEOU	4 1387.2 11 604.6 6 6 604.6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6	96.2 1465.5 507.8 465.5 50.29 495.74 127.36 5613.78 56.91 346.00 50.33 1016.7 101.33 1016.7 104.12 465.56 10.79 1799.79 104.12 465.56 104.70 1799.79 105.214 102.22 10.64 1792.22 10.64 179	HIGH 1415.4 CA(2) 1412.0 CZ(2) 305.54 CS(2) 5434.74 CS(3) 349.71 CZ5(2) 1014.7 CB(2) 472.14 CS(3) 1800.43 CS(3) 1905.13 CZ5(2) 1905.15 CZ5(2) 1905.16 CS(3) 2605.44 CZ(2) 26452.75 CZ(2) 26452.75 CZ(2) 275.55 CS(3) 275.55 CS(3)	1.0 W 1204.5 GL/10 1504.6 GL/10 1504.6 GL/10 1504.6 GL/10 1504.6 GL/10 1505.6 GL/10 1505.6 GL/10 1505.6 GL/10 1506.6 GL/10
1 28 27 27	High LOW High LOW	ANDTRIALA AND Bribarter (1/1/80) 1375.9 All Bribling (1/1/80) 571.3 ANDTRIAL AND Bribarter (1/1/80) 571.3 ANDTRIAL ANDTRIAL ANDTRIAL COMMINION (1/1/80) 5434.74 DECEMBRIANC Depublican SE (State Mittel (1/1/80) 5634.74 Depublican SE (State Mittel (1/1/80) 5634.74 Depublican SE (State Mittel (1/1/80) 5634.74 Depublican SE (State Mittel (1/1/80) 5634.74 Depublican SE (State Mittel (1/1/80) 1005.6 PRIMAL PRIMAL (1/1/1/80) 1005.6 DEPUBLICAN (1/1/1/80) 1006.43 DEPUBLICAN (1/1/1/80) 1006.49 DEPUBLICAN (1/1/80) 1006.69 DEPUBLICAN (1/1/80	4 1387.2 11 604.6 6 609.59 44 689.59 44 689.59 44 689.59 44 689.59 1104.6 11 126.74 1150.26 15 150.26 150	96.2 1465.6 167.8 465.5 162.9 495.74 167.36 5613.78 165.91 346.00 1013.3 1016.7 1013.3 1016.7 105.12 465.56 16.79 1592.2 16.74 1592.9 16.74 1592.9 16.74 1592.9 16.74 1592.9 16.74 1592.9 16.74 1592.9 16.74 1592.9 16.74 1592.9 16.74 1592.9 16.74 1592.9 16.74 1592.9 16.74 1592.9 16.74 1592.9 16.75 2592.9 1	HIGH 1415.A 04/20 1412.0 02/02 305.54 02/02 5634.74 05/33 349.71 02/02 1014.7 08/20 472.14 05/33 1806.83 05/33	1.0 W 1204.5 GAP1 1204.5 GAP1 1204.5 GAP1 1204.6 GAP1 1205.6 GAP1
### 1 28 27 ###################################	Hight LOW Hight LOW	AND TREATMALAA ASI Brebartes (1/1,800) 1375.0 ASI Brebartes (1/1,800) 1575.0 ASI Brebartes (1/1,800) 594.3 AND TREATMAL (1/1,800) 594.3 AND TREATMAL (1/1,800) 5434.74 BREL GRUND Bresseth SE (Cala Med (1/1,800) 5434.74 BREL GRUND SE (3/1,839) 6d PREMANICE (1/1,800) 1015.6 PREMANICE (1/1,800) 1015.6 PREMANICE (1/1,800) 1015.6 PREMANICE (1/1,800) 1015.6 PREMANICE (1/1,800) 1015.6 PREMANICE (1/1,800) 1015.6 PREMANICE (1/1,800) 1015.6 PREMANICE (1/1,800) 1015.6 PREMANICE (1/1,800) 1015.6 PREMANICE (1/1,800) 1015.6 BRENDERSHEVE (1/1,800) 1015.6 B	4 1367.2 12 1604.6 1604.6 16 1604.6 16 1604.6 16 1604.6 16 1604.6 16 1604.6 16 1604.6 16 1604.6 16 1604.6 16 1604.6 16 1604.6 16 1604.6 16 1604.6 1604.6 16 1604.6 1604	998.2 1405.6 1671.8 465.5 1671.8 465.5 1613.78 165.9 165.1 346.00 1613.3 1616.7 1572.9 168.47 168.47	HIGH 1415.A GA(2) 412.0 GZA(2) 305.54 GZA(2) 505.54 GZA(2) 1016.7 GB(2) 472.14 G(3) 1806.83 GS(2) 1975.1 GZA(2) 1975.2 GZA(2) 1975.2 GZA(2) 1975.3 GZA(2) 1875.3 GZA(2) 1875.3 GZA(2)	1.0 W 1204.5 (1A/1) 581.6 (1A/1) 581.6 (1A/1) 390.84 (15/1) 4464.84 (16/1) 302.26 (8/1) 890.5 (23/1) 890.5 (23/1) 1405.26 (15/1) 1405.26 (15/1) 151.26 (15/1) 151.26 (15/1) 151.26 (15/1) 151.26 (15/1) 151.26 (15/1) 151.26 (15/1) 151.26 (15/1) 151.26 (15/1) 151.26 (15/1) 151.26 (15/1) 151.26 (15/1) 151.26 (15/1) 151.26 (15/1) 152.30 (17/1) 27/3.52 (8/1) 27/4.4 (16/1) 152.3 (16/1) 152.3 (16/1) 152.3 (16/1) 152.3 (16/1) 152.3 (16/1)
1 28 27 27 27 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28	Hight LOW Hight LOW	ANDTRIALA AND Britantes (1/1/80) 1375.0 AND Britantes (1/1/80) 591.3 AND Britantes (1/1/80) 591.3 AND Britantes (1/1/80) 591.3 ANDTRIAL DISTRIAL COURT AND CONTROL 991.3 BRITANTES (CALA MIRE) (1/1/80) 5634.74 DROMANINE Dopologia SE (3/1/89) 6d PROMANINE Dopologia SE (3/1/89) 1005.6 PRIMATO EX Control (28/1/2/80) 1005.6 PRIMATO CALA 2007.2 CAL General (28/1/2/80) 1005.6 PRAMICE CALA 2007.2 CAL General (28/1/2/80) 1006.43 GREMMATO (1/1/2/80) 1006.43 GREMMATO (1/1/2/80) 1006.43 HOUNG ROOMS HAND SER ONCOL (1/1/80) 1006.49 HELLAND BER ONCOL (1/1/80) 1006.69 HELLAND BER ONCOL	4 1387.2 11 604.6 6 60	998.2 1405.6 167.8 465.5 167.8 465.5 165.1 346.00 163.3 1636.7 1759.79 166.1 1592.2 16.1 1592.2 16.1 1592.2 16.1 1592.2 16.1 1592.2 16.1 1592.2 16.1 1592.2 16.1 1592.2 16.1 1592.2 16.1 1592.2 16.1 1592.2 16.1 1592.2 16.1 1592.2 16.1 16.1 16.1 16.1 16.1 16.1 16.1 1	HIGH 1415.A CAL22 1412.B CZACZ 305.54 CZACZ 305.54 CZACZ 305.54 CZACZ 1014.7 CZACZ 1014.7 CZACZ 1014.7 CZACZ 1015.1 CZACZ 1075.1 CZAC	1.0 W 1204.5 (1A/1) 551.6 (1A/1) 551.6 (1A/1) 370.84 (15/1) 4464.84 (16/1) 302.26 (8/1) 890.5 (23/1) 890.5 (23/1) 190.86 (15/1) 190.86 (15/1) 151.82 (16/1) 200.86 (15/1) 151.82 (16/1) 200.86 (15/1) 151.82 (16/1) 200.86 (15/1) 151.82 (16/1) 200.86 (15/1) 151.82 (16/1) 200.87 (16/1) 200.87 (16/1) 200.87 (16/1) 200.87 (16/1) 200.87 (16/1) 200.87 (16/1) 200.87 (16/1) 200.87 (16/1) 200.87 (16/1) 200.87 (16/1) 200.87 (16/1) 200.87 (16/1)
1 28 27 27	High LOW High LOW	ASSTRALA A AS Bribartes (1/1800) 1375.9 AS Bribartes (1/1800) 1375.9 AS Bribartes (1/1800) 594.3 ASBIRTRIA STATE S	4 1397.2 11 604.6 16	96.2 1405.6 167.8 465.5 162.9 495.74 127.36 5613.78 165.91 346.00 163.3 166.7 1759.79 165.2 167.4 1542.09 162.3 1542.09 162.3 1542.09 162.3 1542.09 162.3 1542.09 162.3 1542.09 162.3 1542.09 162.3 1542.09 162.3 1542.09 162.3 1542.09 162.3 1542.09 162.3 162.5	HIGH 1415.4 CA122 1412.0 CZ422 503.54 CZ422 503.54 CZ522 1016.7 CZ822 472.14 S/3 1800.43 G/3 1935.1 CZ5/2 1801.15 CZ5/2	1.CNW 1204.5 (1.6/1) 390.34 (1.5/1) 4464.34 (1.6/1) 302.26 (97) 190.5 (23/1) 190.5 (23/1) 190.8 (1.5/1) 160.5 (23/1) 160.5 (23/1) 160.5 (23/1) 160.5 (23/1) 160.5 (23/1) 160.6 (1.5/1) 1
1 28 27 27 27 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28	High LOW High LOW	ANDTRIALA AND Bribarter (1/1/80) AND Bribarter (1/1/80) AND Bribarter (1/1/80) AND Bribarter (1/1/80) AND Bribarter (1/1/80) S91.3 ANDTRIA COURT AND CONTROL WELL COURT British SC Could Mittl (1/1/80) S63.4.74 Decembaries SC Could Mittl (1/1/80) S63.4.74 Decembaries SC Could Mittl (1/1/80) S63.4.74 Decembaries SC Could Mittl (1/1/80) S63.4.74 Decembaries COURT (1/1/80) EX General (28/1/2/80) DEX General (28/1/2/80) AND COURT (1/1/2/80) AND COURT (1/1/80) AND COURT	4 1387.2 11 604.6 6 6 604.6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6	96.2 1405.6 1577.8 465.5 162.9 495.74 1573.6 5613.78 165.91 346.00 1613.3 1616.7 1759.79 164.12 465.56 164.79 1759.79 1652.37 3652.14 162.8 1259.24 162.8 1259.24 162.1 162.5	HIGH 1413.4 CA(2) 1412.0 CZ(2) 305.54 CS(2) 5454.74 CS(3) 349.71 CZ5(2) 1014.7 CB(2) 472.14 CS(3) 1800.43 CS(3) 1905.13 CZ5(2) 1905.13 CZ5(2) 1905.14 CZ5(2) 26452.76 CZ5(2) 26452.76 CZ5(2) 26452.76 CZ5(2) 271.55 CS(3) 271.28 CS(3) 711.28 CS(3) 1106.04 CZ5(2) 403.14 CS(3) 1106.04 CZ5(2) 403.14 CS(3) 1106.04 CZ5(2) 403.14 CS(3) 1106.04 CZ5(2) 403.14 CS(3)	1.0 W 1204.5 GAP1
1 28 27 27	High LOW High LOW	AUSTRALAA ASI Belastes (1/1800 1375.9 ASI Belastes (1/1800 1375.9 ASI Belastes (1/1800 1575.9 ASI Belastes (1/1800 1575.9 ASI Belastes (1/1800 1575.9 ASI Belastes (1/1800 1575.9 BELL ZOUMA Bessick SE Coula Mital (1/1800 156.3A.7A DECREMANINE DES DECREMANINE DES SIL BEST LESS 1955. METHERIE ASIDO DES DECREMANINE DECREMANINE DES DECREMANINE	4 1387.2 11 604.6 6 6 604.6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6	96.2 1405.6 167.8 465.5 162.9 495.74 127.36 5613.78 165.91 346.00 163.3 166.7 1759.79 165.2 167.4 1542.09 162.3 1542.09 162.3 1542.09 162.3 1542.09 162.3 1542.09 162.3 1542.09 162.3 1542.09 162.3 1542.09 162.3 1542.09 162.3 1542.09 162.3 1542.09 162.3 162.5	HIGH 1415.4 CA122 1412.0 CZ422 503.54 CZ422 503.54 CZ522 1016.7 CZ822 472.14 S/3 1800.43 G/3 1935.1 CZ5/2 1801.15 CZ5/2	1.0 W 1204.5 GAP1
1 28 27	High LOW High LOW	ANDTRIALA AND Bribarter (1/180) AND Bribarter (1/180) AND Bribarter (1/180) AND Bribarter (1/180) AND Bribarter (1/180) S91.3 ANDTRIA FORE Abiles C0/12/80 WILLIAM BRILLAULA Bressel SC Cook Mitel (1/180) S63.4.74 Decembaries SC Cook Mitel (1/180) S63.4.74 Decembaries SC Cook Mitel (1/180) S63.4.74 Decembaries FORE Abiles C0/12/80 EX General (20/12/80) 100.43 GERMANTY FAZ Abiles C1/12/80 100.43 GERMANTY FAZ Abiles C1/12/80 100.43 GERMANTY FAZ Abiles C1/12/80 100.43 House Foreit (1/12/80) 100.43 House Foreit (1/12/80) 100.49 HOUNG ROSNIG HALLY BRICL COM, Inc. (1/180) 100.49 HELLAMD SER OWNIG (1/180) 100.49 HELLAMD SER OW	4 1387.2 11 604.6 6 6 604.6 6 6 604.6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6	96.2 1405.6 1577.8 465.5 162.9 495.74 1573.6 5613.78 165.91 346.00 1613.3 1616.7 1759.79 164.12 465.56 164.79 1759.79 1652.37 3652.14 162.8 1259.24 162.8 1259.24 162.1 162.5	HIGH 1413.4 CA(2) 1412.0 CZ(2) 305.54 CS(2) 5454.74 CS(3) 349.71 CZ5(2) 1014.7 CB(2) 472.14 CS(3) 1800.43 CS(3) 1905.13 CZ5(2) 1905.13 CZ5(2) 1905.14 CZ5(2) 26452.76 CZ5(2) 26452.76 CZ5(2) 26452.76 CZ5(2) 271.55 CS(3) 271.28 CS(3) 711.28 CS(3) 1106.04 CZ5(2) 403.14 CS(3) 1106.04 CZ5(2) 403.14 CS(3) 1106.04 CZ5(2) 403.14 CS(3) 1106.04 CZ5(2) 403.14 CS(3)	1.0 W 1204.5 GAP1
1 28 27 27	Hight LOW Hight LOW	AMSTRALA A AND SCHOOL AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND	4 1387.2 11 604.6 6 6 604.6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6	96.2 1465.5 10.29 495.74 17.36 5613.78 165.91 346.00 1013.3 1016.7 165.12 465.56 16.29 1759.79 166.12 465.56 16.29 1759.79 166.1 1972.2 16.74 1512.09 162.37 3552.14 162.88 1290.48 161.46 572.32 17.66 17.67 17.6	HIGH 1413.4 04/22 412.0 02/22 305.54 05/23 5454.74 05/33 349.71 05/22 1014.7 08/22 472.14 05/33 1806.83 05/33 1905.13 02/22 1905.1 02/23 1906.89 05/33 1006.89 05/33 1006.89 05/33 701.28 05/33 711.28 05/33 711.28 05/33 1367.0 04/13 3558.0 02/22 647.52 14/13 257.41 02/23	1.CNW 120A.5 (1A/1)
1 28 27	High LOW High LOW	ANDTRIALA AND Britantics (1/180) AND Britantics (1/180) AND Britantics (1/180) AND Britantics (1/180) AND Britantics (1/180) AND Britantics AND Britantics COMMITTELA COMMITTELA DESCRIPTION DESCRIPTI	4 1387.2 11 604.6 6 6 604.6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6	96.2 1465.5 161.78 465.5 161.29 475.74 167.36 5613.78 165.91 346.00 1013.3 1016.7 1013.3 1016.7 1013.3 1016.7 1013.3 1016.7 1013.3 1016.7 1013.3 1016.7 1013.3 1016.7 1013.3 1016.7 1013.3 1016.7 1013.3 1016.7 1013.3 1016.7 1013.3 1016.7 1013.3 1016.7 1013.3 1016.7 1013.3 1016.7 1013.3 1016.7 1013.3 1016.7 1013.0 1016.7 1013.0 1016.7 1013.0 1016.7 1013.0 1016.7 1013.0 1016.7 1013.0 1016.7 1013.0 1016.7 1013.0 1016.7 1013.0 1016.7 1016.0 1016.0 1016.7 1016.0 1016	HIGH 1415.A 04/20 1412.0 02/02 305.54 02/02 305.54 02/02 1014.7 08/20 472.1A 6/33 1806.83 6/39 1806.83 6/39 1806.83 6/39 1806.83 6/39 1806.83 6/39 1806.83 6/39 1806.83 6/39 1806.83 6/39 1806.84 6/39 1806.84 02/20 26652 76 02/20 26652 76 02/20 26652 76 02/20 2677.55 6/53 261.5 6/53	1.0 W 1204.5 (1A/1) 1204.5 (1A/1) 1204.5 (1A/1) 1204.5 (1A/1) 1204.5 (1A/1) 1204.6 (1A/1)
### A T	High LOW High LOW	ANDTORNAL AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND	4 1387.2 11 604.6 (499.59) 44 (499.59) 44 (499.59) 44 (499.59) 44 (499.59) 44 (499.59) 44 (499.59) 45	M6.2 1405.6 167.8 465.5 16.29 495.74 17.36 5613.78 16.51 346.00 1813.3 1016.7 1813.3 1016.7 1813.3 1016.7 1813.7 1542.99 1813.7 3552.14 182.8 1390.48 161.46 572.52 1811.7 28409.22 1811.6 1360.32 1811.1 2994.24 1812.1 1812.5 1812.1 1812.5 1812.1 1812.5 1813.3 396.56 1812.1 1812.5 1813.3 396.56 1813.0 321.80 1813.0 321.80 1813.0 321.80 1814.0 321.80 1815.0 321.80 18	HIGH 1415.A CAL22 1412.B CZACZ 305.54 CZACZ 305.54 CZACZ 1016.7 CZACZ 1016.7 CZACZ 1016.7 CZACZ 1016.7 CZACZ 1016.7 CZACZ 1016.7 CZACZ 1016.1 CZAC	1.0 W 1204.5 (1A/1) 1204.5 (1A/1) 1204.5 (1A/1) 1204.5 (1A/1) 1204.5 (1A/1) 1204.6 (1A/1)
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TOKYO - Most Active Stocks Tuesday 5 March 1991

CONTRACTED BUSINESS SERVICES

The FT proposes to publish this survey on 11th March 1991.

It will be of particular interest to the 24% of the UK Board Directors who are regular FT readers. This is a greater percentage than any other UK daily newspaper. If you want to reach this important audience, call Jessica Perry on 071 873 4611 or fax 071 873 3062.

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AMERICA

Strength in futures and bonds helps Dow advance

Wall Street

A SURGE in the futures mar-

A SURGE in the futures market led US equities broadly higher yesterday morning in active trading, writes Karen Zagor in New York.

At 2 pm, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 44.06 at 2.958.17. On the big board, edvancing issues led those declining by a ratio of three to one. The Standard & Roor's 500 rose 5.78 to 375.11 by 1 pm and the New York Stock Exchange composite added 2.80 Exchange composite added 2.80 to 204.88. On Monday, the Dow closed up 4.21 at 2.914.11.

A strong bond market also supported share prices. At mid-session, the long bond was quoted % higher for a yield of

Technology issues paced yes-Technology issues paced yesterdey morning e raily, with IBM edding \$1% to \$132, Compaq gaining \$1% to \$70%, Digital Equipment rising \$1% to \$77% and Cray Research np calk at 642

K Mart, a large US retailer, climbed \$1% to \$39% in active trading after an analyst et Kid-der Peabody repeated a "buy" recommendation on the stock. Mr Daniel Barry, an analyst at Kidder Peabody, expects the pany to outperform the US

than 5 per cent in February. Alaska Air added \$1 to \$23% after an analyet at Merrill Lynch upgraded the stock rat-ing and increased earnings timates to \$1.80 a share from

UAL, parent of United Air-lines, climbed \$44% to \$141%. The company has filed with the Securities & Exchange Commission to sell 1.5m common shares to the public. ITT slid \$% to \$56% after it warned analysts that 1981
would be a difficult year. However, the company still hopes
to improve operating earnings.
Hewlett-Packard firmed \$1½ to \$49 on reports that it plans to introduce three super-fast workstations later this month. First City Bancorp plummeted \$1% to \$5%. The company will suspend dividend payments on both its common

Technology issues also led the secondary market higher. At midsession, the Nasdaq composite was up 8.07 at 469.19. Apple Computer rose \$3% to \$62 after the company said that it would support an IBM effort which would extend the com-

and preferred etock in an

attempt to improve its capital

retall industry, turning in mnnication capability of same store sales gains of more Apple's Macintosh computers. icrosoft jumped \$4% to \$111%, a 52-week high.
Health Risk Management
plunged \$6% to \$12 after the
company said that 1991 revenues would be lower than expected. For the first balf of the year, the company's revenues were \$3.9m.

Canada

TORONTO stocks rose to their highest level this year. At midmorning, the composite index sailed past the year's closing high of 3,532.54 set in February and, by midsession, stood 26.2 higher at 3,545.3. Advances led declines by 283 to 163 on volume of 17.26m shares.

All sectors except gold advanced. Bank shares continued to lead the market Turon. ued to lead the market. Toronto-Dominion rose C\$\% to C\$18, Royal Bank of Canada gained C3½ to C\$25, Bank of Nova Scotia added C3½ to C\$16½ and Canadian Imperial firmed C\$% to C\$31. Maple Leaf Gardens gained

C\$2 to C\$32½ after jumping C\$3 on Monday. The Gardens, which control the Toronto

Maple Leafs hockey franchise, are caught in a legal battle for

control of the property.

Hopes of lower rates produce active buying

entice local investors back to the bourse.

High-yielding stocks — a favourits of the small investor

- and interest rate consitive shares already seem to be attracting attention. Générale

de Banque and Powerfin, the

electricity utility, were among the best performers in the first two months of the year, rising

by more than 22 per cent.
At the same time, the coun-

try'e largest holding company,

Brussels shows off its home-made finery

Société Générale

de Belgique are price in Belgian Pre

Belgium FT-A World Inde

Tax-free equity funds and La Générale have attracted investors back, says Andrew Hill

World

THE HIGH level of institutional liquidity produced active buying in most bourses yesterday. The rise gathered yesterday. The rise gathered pace in the afternoon, mainly on interest rate hopes and Wall Street's opening strength, writes Our Markets Staff.

MADRID was popular with foreign and local buyers, who focused on big, liquid stocks, as well as speculative shares. The Madrid general index gained 5.14 or 2 per cent to 268.17 in turnover of Pta2lbn, up from Pta17bn. up from Pta17bn. Among the day's winners, Banco Popular rose Pta240 to a

BRUSSELS seems buoyant. In the first nine weeks of 1991, the Bei-

gian cash market index has outperformed both London and

New York with a rise of 720

points or nearly 15 per cent. For now, it looks as though the

ences as other world markets.

But although the bourse may owe some of its glitter to good news from the Gulf and the

global trend towards lower interest rates (in Belgium they

have fallen from 10 per cent to

9 per cent), it also has some

For example, the Belgian finance minister - who

seemed to favour bonds over equities - has earned plaudits

from analysts for a much-needed reform of the financial

markets, by promoting Belgian Sicavs (eociétés d'investisse-

ment à capital variable). These equity funds, a French inven-

tion, allow investors to roll up dividend income, free of tax.

Luxembourg has lured Bel-

gian savings for some time

ome-made finery to show off.

Belgian bulls are back. True, Bruseels has responded to the same influ-

1990/91 high of Pta10,100. Hopes of contracts in the Gulf and takeover rumours stirred up domestic interest. Tubaces, the steel pipe maker, jumped Ptass or 9 per cent to Pta715, in continued active trade of 1.15m shares, and Altos Hornos Vizcaya, the steel maker, shot up Pta34 or 14.6 per cent to Pta267, on 1.2m shares. One analyst said that none of the speculation seemed

very soundly based. Nissan Motor Iberica fell Pta20 to Pta575. The market was disappointed by the news that the company would not pay a final dividend for 1990. PARIS gained another 1.9 per cent and cleared the 1.800 level on the CAC 40 index. Domestic institutional buying helped lift the index 33.89 to 1,800.63 in turnover of about

bought and a correction immi-nent, said an analyst, adding that any interest rate cut had been fully discounted.

Demand focused on cyclical stocks. CMB Packaging gained another FFr6 to FFr139.50 with 479,750 chares traded, for a two-day rise of 10.3 per cent. The stock is regarded as sensitive to interest rates because of its level of debt, although

AMSTERDAM hit a high for the year on buying across the board. The CBS Tendency index rose 1.3 points or 1.4 per

much of that debt is at fixed

SOUTH AFRICA

JOHANNESBURG gained after a slow start yesterday, but vol-ume was light before the bud-get in two weeks. The all-gold index rose 4 to 1,087 and the industrial index added 14 to to 3,214. The all-share index advanced 24 to 2,828.

cent to 91.0 in volume of F178em. Elsevier, the publisher, fell F1 2.90 or 3.7 per cent to F1 74.50 in volume of F1145.17m as Goldman Sachs, the US invest-ment house, offered Pearson's 22.2 per cent stake to institu-tions at a reported price of F174. Dealers said that the terms were a temptation to institutions, many of which were immediately selling back the shares into the market. One fund manager pointed out that many UK institutions

Share price and indices rebased

with its Sicavs, and the De Clerco Funds - Belgian equity

funds which no longer offer tax edvantages - have suffered proportionately. At the same time, the illiquidity of the

Brussels market has deterred international investors.

Equity analysts now hope the De Clercq Funds, restricted

to investments in Belgian

equity and cash, will be able to convert into Sicavs, while the

creation of new Sicays should

FRANKFURT'S DAX index ended 9.4 or less than 1 per cent higher at 1,540.26 after a rise of 7.55 to 659.47 in the FAZ

FT-SE Eurotrack 100 - Mar.5 Hourty changes Open '16 am 11 am Noon 1 pm 2 pm 3 pm Close 1080.18 1059.88 1081.00 1061.44 1060.77 1083.07 1083.71 1084.17 Day's High 1064.45 Day's Low 1059.67

prices in London reflected a higher afternoon trend. Volome rose from DM5.8bn to DM5.8bn as selective invest-ment in blue chips ran in par-allel with trading in special sit-

nations.

Among the leaders, chemicals saw another good day for Schering, up DM13.50 to DM773 for a two-day gain of DM34.50.

Special situations included Harpener, up DM24 at DM384 after the sale of a 19.95 per cent stake by Omni of Switzerland to Lonrho of the UK; and Continental, the tyre company. tinental, the tyre company being pursued by Pirelli of Italy, which dropped DM16 or

6.4 per cent to DM235.50, apparently on profit-taking after steep rises last week.

ZURICH industrials continued to rise on the recent improvement in the dollar, the higher at 548.9. Alusuisse stood out, the bearers rising SFr40 to

Société Générale de Belgique, has exercised its usual gravita

tional pull on the market. The

sale of Mr Carlo De Benedetti's

interests in mature busines

such as CBR, the cement com-

pany, or Acec-Union Minière,

pany, or According Millere, the non-ferrous metals group. Boosted by such speculation, the cyclical stocks which make np an unusually high propor-tion of the market capitalisa-tion have also risen sharply in

the first weeks of the year. As one London-based analyst puts

it: "There have been two themes in Belgium this year –

high-yielding etocke and bombed-out cyclicals." In fact, CBR is the unlikely

star of the 1991 equity market.

MILAN saw most of the day'e activity in the last 15

Its ordinary shares closed at BFr7,560 on Tuesday, a rise of nearly 35 per cent since the end of 1990, but thet follows a collapse from BFr9,940 to BFr5,700 in the final few months of last year.

sale of Mr Carlo De Benedeut's outstanding investment in the group to the majority shareholder, Compagnie de Suez, and, before that, the replacement of La Générale's managing director, stoked speculation in the holding company's stock for more than 30 per cent since Sceptics and pessimists point out that, in spite of the copho-ria, La Générale has not (up more than 20 per cent since the beginning of the year) and BRUSSELS started the new account in good form. The that of its quoted satellites.

Perhaps, investors reasoned,
a new broom would sweep out
some of La Générale's minority 13.63 to 5,634.74 yesterday in volume of BFr858m. Steelmaker Cockerill Sambre was the leading gainer, jumping 5.6 per cent to BFr170 with 77,000 shares traded.

> uring of its assets, and there is no hard evidence of an upturn in cyclical businesses.
>
> The approaching corporate results season may puncture the balloon. "Company state-

ments will be very cautions and may verge on the downright negative," warns one analyst. But so far Belgian investors have not had the nerve to jump off the bandwagon.

Nikkei falls on central bank economic report

Tokyo

PROFIT-TAKING emerged again yesterday, as hopes of an easier monetary policy receded on the announcement of the central bank'e ecocomic report, writes Emiko Terazono in Tokyo.

Late selling left the Nikkei average down 62.54 at 25,913.48, against a high for the day of 26.148.87 just after lunch, and e low of 25,896.74 on the Bank of Japan's "tankan" or quarterly economic survey, which indieconomic survey, which addressed that the supply-demand situation was etill tight for goods and services and for the laboor market. Ms Miki Koshiba at S.G. Warburg said growth of the Laranges economic survey, which is the supply-demand the supply said growth of the Laranges economic survey. omy still seemed to be on a high plateau.

Volume rose from 360m shares to 550m. Traders attri-buted the increase to crosstrading, in order to realise profits without portfollo changes before the March book closing. Declines led gains by 491 to 469 with 164 issnes unchanged. The Topix index of all first section stocks closed 3.18 up at 1,928.98, and in London the ISE/Nikkei 50 index edged ahead 1.14 to 1,489.20. Traders expected activity to

stay sluggish for some time. Ms Caroline Stone at Barclays domestic institutione had become less active before the March book closing, and that foreigners had lost some of their appetite for the Tokyo

interest rate-sensitive, largecapital issues lost ground as hopes of an early cut in the discount rate faded. Nippon Steel shed Y8 to Y486 and Miteubishi Heavy Indnetries

declined Y18 to Y780. individuals dabbled in specu-letive shares. Keisel Blectric Railway, the day's most active stock, advanced Y50 to Y1.770. the sixth consecutive session'e rise, on rumours that it would be connecting its railway line

to the Narita International Air-

HATTOHAL AND REGIONAL MARKETS

Figures in par

Australia (75)_

group based in Kyushu, in southern Janan, was actively Dowa Mining firmed Y22 to

Y790 as copper and aluminium prices rose on overseas mar-kets. Sumitomo Metal Mining appreciated Y60 to Y1,260.

volume of 39.1m shares. Murata Manufacturing advanced in the morning on investment trust buying, but receded later on profit-taking to end unal-

HONG KONG continued its

Utilities posted the sharpest gains, followed by property. Hong Kong Telecom, the mar-

ket's biggest issne, moved ahead 15 cents to HK\$7.30. SINGAPORE's Straits Times Industrial index moved np 11.87 to a 1991 high of 1,484.72 ss volume climbed from S\$237m to S\$334m. Blue chips led the rally, with

shipping, real estate, retail and

MONDAY MARCH 4 1991

port, and on its business col-laboration with Tokyo Disney-

Kurabo Industries gained Y80 to Y1,940 and Howe Machinery, an industrial machine maker, put on Y20 to Y1,170. Howa climbed to a record Y1,220 in the afternoon on rumours that a speculative

Blue chip high-technology issues with high export ratios rose on reports of a shorter than expected US recession. Toshiba added Y14 at Y878 and

Sony Y60 at Y6,850. In Osaka, the OSE average improved 46.86 to 28,695.53 on

Roundup

BLUE CHIPS led the way as a number of Pacific Rim markets responded to New York's overnight stability, rather than Tokyo's easier tone.

rally in heavy trading. The Hang Seng index broke through 3,600 for the first time since October 16, 1987, with a rise of 36.15 or 1 per cent to 3,600.49. Turnover expanded from HK\$1.72bn to HK\$2.02bn.

hotels on many buying lists. Sembawang Shipyard was an exception, down 45 cents at

S\$6.25 on lower than expected

earnings.
KUALA LUMPUR noted strong support for quality stocks as the composite index gained 9.72 or 1.7 per cent to a seven month high of 577.55. Renong led the actives list with 6.1m chares traded as it rose 6 cents to M\$1.89. SYDNEY focused on domes-tic economic issues in nervous

trading. The All Ordinaries index lost 12.2 to 1,375.0 and turnover dropped from A\$342m to A\$190m. Prime Minister Bob Hawke said yesterday that the Australian economy remained weak, and Mr John Button, industry

minister, said figures due on March 2I would show the econ-omy contracted again in the final 1990 quarter, the third consecutive quarter of declin-ing gross domestic product. National Australia Bank, making a one-for-five rights issue of shares to raise more than A\$1bn, retreated 20 cents

to A\$5.78. MANILA firmed in slow trading, the composite index adding 7.59 at 941.09.

NEW ZEALAND slipped another 1 per cent, the Barclays index falling 13.49 to 1,323.87 in turnover of NZ\$9.9m, egainet NZ\$8m. Brierley Investments eased 3 ceots to NZ\$1.05 before tomorrow's results.
TAIWAN'e weighted index

fell 97.33 or 2.1 per cent to 4,527.51 in turnover down from T\$38.6bn to T\$33.9bn. The market showed little reaction to reports that the government would not expand its investigation of stock income tax eva-sion beyond its inquiries on s few big players. Traders have blamed the crackdown for the recent market decline.

ROMBAY was pleased by the interim budget, presented on Monday. The BSE index strengthened 20.49 to 1,245.33. Car shares were subdued on disappointment that the government did not remove the 25 per cent "Gulf surcharge" on petroleum products.

FRIDAY MARCH 1 1981

already had sufficient Elsevier stock in their portfolios and were reluctant to take a larger holding in a company which had gone ex-growth. Specula-tion that Elsevier was planning to use the cash raised from the sale of its stake in Wolters Kluwer to fund another acquisi-tion also worried investors.

at midsession; but post-bourse

out, the ceaters rising Stray to SFr1,110 on lower profits and a higher dividend. Its plan to open the registered shares to foreigners left the latter only SFr10 higher at SFr550, but this class had already seen a rise of 20 per cent since late in rise of 20 per cent since late in

rose following better than expected mutual fund figures for February, showing a net inflow of L603bn after a L22bn net outflow in January. However, the approach of the options expiry day next Tuesday prompted some selling. The Comit index rose 1.28 to 562.50 in volume estimated at near Monday's L126bn. Generali, expected to release 1990 results shortly, fell L270 to STOCKHOLM was led higher hy Astra and Ericsson. The Affarsvärlden General index added 3.6 to 1,067.6 in turnover

of SKr390m, Volvo free B shares closed steady at SKr292 before reporting a pre-tax loss of SKr327m in 1990. Ericsson free Bs climbed SKr7 to SKr214 and Astra free Bs added SKr8 to SKr523. OSLO's all-share index rose 5.22 to 489.71 in good

turnover of NKr458m.
ISTANBUL fell charply again, the 75-share index losing 274.3 or 5.8 per cent to 4,464.68.

FT LAW REPORTS

Underwriters must extend cover

TOUCHE ROSS AND OTHERS V BAKER Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Nelli, Lord Justice Mann and Sir David Croom-Johnson):

February 28 1991

DISCOVERY extension clause in a line slip insurance policy entitling the assured to extension of cover after non-renewal by the underwriter, is not a collective condition bind-ing only if all participating syndicates refuse to renew, but is binding on the individual members of each non-renewing syndicate irrespective of whether others have decided

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing an appeal by Mr Colin Baker, representative defendant for Lloyd's syndicate 126. from Mr Justice Leggatt'e declaration that they were bound to indemnify the plain-tiffs, Tonchs Ross and five other accountancy firms, under excess professional indemnify

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that in the 1970s and early 1980s, substantial lines of pro-fessional indemnity insurance were underwritten by syndi-Syndicate 126 participated in

primary policies and in various layers of excess insurance. The relevant policies were all written as declarations under line slips. The line slips were initialled first by the lead-ing underwriter and then by the active underwriter of the

syndicate.
The primary policies and the first excess layer policies were for 36 months from June 1 1964. The conditions of the primary policy were set out in clause IV. The first excess layer policy was subject to the same terms and conditions.

Clanse IV condition 8 pro-vided for the premium to be paid for each of the three years of the policy. Clause IV condition 3(b) provided that on each anniversary date of the policy, expiry should be extended for a year unless a year's notice of non-extension had been given by either party.
Clause IV coodition 5 pro-

Discovery extension cover was cover against claims made after the underwriters' cancellation or refusal to renew or extend, but which arose from acts committed before such cancellation or refusal to

vided for discovery extension

Condition 5 provided that "if the underwriters shall refuse to extend this policy", the assured had the right on pay-ment of an additional prement of an additional pre-mium, to "extension of the cover granted by this policy," for claims made within 36 months after date of termina-tion, in respect of acts commit-ted before date of termination.

In March 1985 notice of non-extension was given under clause IV 3(b) of the primary policy, to expire May 31 1987. Similar non-extension notices were given by the leading syn-dicate on behalf of all syndicates on the first excess layer

Some syndicates negotiated fresh extension terms. Others, including syndicate 126, maintained the non-extension

In April 1985 syndicate 126 accepted a line on the third excess layer. The policies contained a discovery extension clause. In March 1986 the syndicate gave notice of cancellation of its line on the third excess layer policies.

The assureds gave notice to exercise their rights under the discovery clauses in the first and third excess layer policies.

Syndicate 126 argued that because some syndicates had renewed, discovery extension rights could not be exercised against it. It said the rights had to be exercised against all

had to be exercised against an underwriters, or none.
In October 1988 the accountancy firms issued a writ. They sought a declaration that they were entitled to discovery extension cover on the third and first excess layer policies.

The underwriters counter. The underwriters countercisimed declarations that the rights to discovery extension cover could not be exercised solely against members of syn-dicate 125, but only against members of all participating

policies. It was common ground that an underwriting member of Lloyd's undertook a several liability (see section 8, Lloyd's That principle was under-

lined by the wording of the excess layer policies — "We, the underwriters . . hereby bind ourselves each for his own part and not one for However, Lloyd's underwrit-

ers acted collectively through the syndicate system.
The syndicate system operated by vesting control in an underwriting agent who acted on behalf of syndicate mem-bers. He might delegate control to a sub-agent. Either the underwriting agent or the subagent would employ the active uniderwriter, who was given complete authority to bind the names in the syndicate for which he acted.

Each syndicate therefore acted through its active underwriter. Syndicates participating in a particular policy would also act collectively and would vest authority in the leading underwriter. He would eact, for that purpose, not only on behalf of the leading syndi-cate, but also on behalf of other syndicates who had writ-

ten lines.
It followed, the underwriters submitted, that though individ-ual underwriters' liability to indemnify was eeveral, for many purposes "the underwrit-ers" in the policies meant the underwriters collectively.

Accordingly, it was argued, the right to give notice of non-

extension was to be exercised collectively. Counsel argued that in the discovery extension clauses. "an extension of the cover granted by the policy" must relate to the type and scope of

cover then in existence.

He said extension cover provided by only some of the underwriters was not "an extension of the cover granted by the policy". The cover which was granted by the renewing underwriters was in effect new cover.

Mr Justice Leggatt rejected the arguments. He concluded that "this policy" referred to the particular insurance granted by the line, and that cover granted by the policy" comprised the indemnity extensions, exclusions and other conditions.

He said it followed that syndicate 126 was bound to the extent of its line to afford indemnity to the plaintiffs under the discovery extension clause in their respective poli-

The underwriters appealed It was true that the individual policy was expressed as a policy between the assured and the participating underwriters as a group.

But in fact and in law "the

policy" meant and included a bundle of separate contracts. Accordingly, though for cer-tain purposes the underwriters acted collectively, it was necessary to examine in any particu-lar case whether an individual syndicate retained the right to act separately.

It was relevant to remember that, though the insurance

period might be three years, at the annual renewal there might be changes in the partic-ipating syndicates and almost always changes in syndicate

membership.
In General Reinsurance o Fennia Patria [1983] QB 856,864 Lord Justice Kerr said "the slip method of placing insurance contracts results in the conclusion of separate contracts with the subscribers of the slip".

In The Zephyr (1984) 1

Lloyd's Rep 58,66 Mr Justice
Hobhouse explained that the
slip or policy provided a contractual link between the

assured and a large number of individual users. He said "what might seem to be a single contract is in fact a bundle of a large number of distinct contracts on the same terms except as to the amount of each individual insurer's lia-

bility". . The fact that the policy incorporated a number of sepa-rate contracts meant that the individual syndicates were free not only to decide how to deal with a particular claim, but also to decida whether or not they wished to renew or cancel accordance with the terms

of the policy.

In making those decisions the individual syndicate would no doubt confer with other participating syndicates and with the leading underwriter. But there was no reason why their decision to renew coverage should affect the assured's should affect the assured's right to claim discovery extension cover against other syndicates which might have decided not to renew.

It followed that "extension of the cover granted by the policy" in the discovery extension clauses meant extension of cover granted under the cover

cover granted under the separate contracts. Thus, in construing the policy, it was necessary to give full effect to the fundamental

principle that the policy embraced a number of separate That fundamental principle and the rights conferred by those separate contracts, must take priority over provisions designed to facilitate collective

action where appropriate.
The appeal was dismissed. Lord Justice Mann and Sir David Croom-Johnson agreed. For the underwriters: Anthony Boswood QC and Guy Philipps (Simmons & Simmons). For Touche Ross: Jonathan Mance QC: and Robert Bright (Lovell White Durrant).

Rachel Davies

| 1 -1.7 | 101.06 | 110.76 | 103.30 | 110.73 | -0.7 | 6.06 | 131.54 | 102.75 | 111.84 | 105.12 | 111.51 | 158.51 | 112.74 | 139.95 | 120.77 | 168.49 | 182.46 | 170.17 | 170.24 | -0.5 | 1.60 | 214.59 | 187.63 | 182.45 | 171.48 | 171.10 | 295.63 | 187.00 | 295.13 | -0.1 | 116.39 | 127.54 | 118.95 | 118.05 | +0.0 | 5.08 | 149.14 | 116.50 | 122.79 | 119.17 | 118.04 | 150.02 | 127.73 | 135.50 | 137.80 | 149.14 | 137.80 | 107.64 | 177.13 | 110.11 | 115.05 | 153.51 | 121.24 | 141.05 | -0.4 | 204.74 | 224.39 | 209.27 | 210.13 | -0.4 | 1.65 | 263.01 | 205.45 | 223.82 | 210.17 | 210.85 | 277.62 | 277.74 | 248.79 | -0.2 | 88.94 | 97.48 | 90.91 | 68.64 | +0.4 | 8.17 | 113.58 | 68.72 | 90.57 | 90.78 | 83.32 | 152.29 | 90.81 | 147.11 | 15.94 | 177.13 | 133.32 | 124.19 | 115.83 | 146.04 | +0.5 | 241. | 117.57 | 91.91 | 100.05 | 94.02 | 94.02 | 144.83 | 101.38 | 128.51 | +0.3 | 133.32 | 124.19 | 115.83 | 146.04 | +0.3 | 48.3 | 144.52 | 132.99 | 237.65 | 147.49 | 147.49 | 142.40 | 143.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.94 | 147.9 116.96 128.19 119.55 149.85 -0.3 3.28 150.09 117.24 127.65 119.94 150.09 150.09 150.06 135.25 140.5 115.23 128.29 177.79 116.93 +0.5 4.02 147.05 114.88 125.03 117.52 118.58 157.65 124.51 136.38 151.65 124.51 136.38 151.65 124.51 136.38 151.65 124.51 136.38 151.65 124.51 136.38 151.65 124.51 136.38 151.65 124.51 136.38 151.65 124.51 136.38 151.65 124.51 136.38 151.65 124.51 136.38 151.65 124.51 136.38 151.65 124.51 136.38 151.65 124.51 136.38 151.65 124.51 136.38 151.65 124.51 136.38 151.65 124.51 136.38 150.24 151.55 148.61 136.24 136.25 136.26 136.

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Constituent changes 5/3/91: Addition: Intl. Nederlanden Group (Netherlands). Deletions: Nat-Nederlanden and NAIS Postbank (both Netherlands). Latest prices were unavailable for this edition.

